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MACLEAN'S

JULY 25 2005



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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measures. Co-funding shows that someone needs the proposed research, and gives the co-funder an incentive to own research results into new products and processes.

John Argilli, Executive Director, Bioethics, Waterloo

Genotype Canada is a major reason why Canada leads internationally in some areas of genome research, and why we have instead retained a group of accomplished scientists. Genotype Canada is not without its faults. Your article points to one of them: the co-funding requirements, which recently has excluded some of our best young scientists from consideration for support. There are other problems: the need to file detailed progress reports every three months, a concentration on rigid milestones, an emphasis on organizational structure, and the sense that short-term results are important. The sum of these requirements creates a level of

diversion that takes time and attention away from the job of scientists: to do research and to teach students. And these requirements make virtually no improvements to the quality of genome research.

Julian Pollack, Professor Emeritus, Biology and Third Department of Medical Research, University of Toronto, Toronto

Everyone in this business knows that if you want funding, you have to play by the funding agency's rules. With an increasing pressure to divert funds from research into other programs with more immediate and apparent benefits to the public, it is up to the scientist to provide whatever is requested by the funding agency, not to lament the lack of funding agency insight. The expansion of no-questions-asked funding is worrisome. **W. Grant Maclean**, Director, WPI Biophysics Program, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.

MACLEAN'S 100 | FROM OUR PAGES

We knew them when: Atwood, Young and Cronenberg redux

SURPRISING THINGS ABOUT CANADIANS who have gone on to fame are revealed in Maclean's articles from decades ago. In 1968, Margaret Atwood made her debut in our pages as one of three poets we asked to commemorate the first mission crew leaving their poems collected in a child's fantasy novel, an oasis of "glad poems with seaweed borders," with the "black arctic" landscape that had appeared on everyone's TV set. Darkly, Atwood's brief bio noted that her endearing résumé: "The aspiring to be a leading English," but failed to mention that her first volume of poetry, published three years earlier, had won a Governor General's Award.

Neil Young was 25 and already Maclean's profiled him in 1971. The 16-track, co-written by his brother, Bob Young, disclosed that the rocker had plunked out his first tune at age 13 on a plastic ukulele. The piece also mentioned that when he was slightly older and had switched instruments, his mother made a deal with him: "He'd could play the guitar as he wanted as long as he stopped to bring his English."

In 1973, director David Cronenberg had a film called *The Shout*, a tongue-battered horror flick starring moosep gymnasts in white night suits as murderous fire-farmers. His two bigger budgets and more critical acclaim now, but his works haven't really changed. "Horror films are not escapes, they are confrontations," he told back then. Today he still wants to make his fans cheer his rails. — **Patricia Young**

After the Gold Rush here in '73

From Our Pages celebrates Maclean's centenary

MACLEAN'S

100 YEARS OF CANADIAN HISTORY

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UPFRONT



ScoreCard

ARIN-FREEZE

The Shutes jumps 48, twice a foot if you dare. Six billion fans of *Arin's* cloying mix of cynicism, fluorescent charm, and not-so-wide Webpage is the world's best customers. Why? One theory: they drink their in-bure to cool off, in winter, to warm up.

QUADRO

Credit pick and ditch gift for rhetoric with pulling bonds about London back on its feet. Haunted by blame from Tony Blair and Mayor Ken Livingstone, *Quadro* series. Whelan would be proud.

Heat wave | Summerize and Canada comes to a boil

Up and down, and around we go. Chuzum are, which ever part of the country you call home, this summer feels a lot different from the last. "In many ways, which happened is we've owned the weather upside down," says David Phillips, senior climatologist at Environment Canada. His officers predicting more hot temperatures nationwide. But perhaps the only thing people should expect is the unexpected. On both coasts, summer has been low to come, whereas it was sunny and very hot last year in the early going. Plus, the weather's been pretty strange between the bookends as well. In 2004, some parts of the Prairies weathered under a persistent drought and others suffered through the colder sun mer on record. This year, it's been sun, rain and more rain in the West. Southern Quebec and Ontario, meanwhile, are making up for last year's non-summer with a record-breaking heat wave and, in Quebec's case, spectacular lightning storms.

All this opposite weather is more than just fodder for complainants. In Toronto, the season is just getting

started. It is in the water at a conservancy area near Milliken, Ont., where temperatures have been hovering at the 10s.

four possible low-related deaths and energy supplies are being stretched to the limit. In southern Manitoba, hundreds of families have filed claims for flood assistance in Alberta, the flood claims may hit \$400 million, which could make this the costliest natural disaster in the province's history.

These problems are not limited to Canada, of course. A new British study predicts global insurance costs could increase by two-thirds over the next century because of climate change. But that's nothing compared to the human toll caused by extreme weather. For example, over 200 died in the past two weeks in monsoon flooding in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan (400 died earlier from a nearly month-long heat wave). And Hurricane Dennis killed dozens in Haiti and Cuba before slamming into the southern U.S. Kind of puts our difficulties into perspective. — **ROB ANNANDALE**

Quote of the week | "Even in the pulpit we feel threatened teaching the Church's sexual morality." **MARC CARDINAL GUELLIER** tells a Senate committee Catholic prelates fear being proscayed for bigotry and homophobia when they oppose same-sex marriage

WORLD

MAD COW Canadian cows should be once again on their way to U.S. abattoirs as early as next week. A U.S. appeal in Seattle overturned an injunction by a Montana judge that was keeping the border closed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which recently succeeded in first horsemeat case of mad cow disease, said it was willing, as it was in March, to accept Canadian cattle under 30 months of age into the U.S. as soon as all the paper work is sorted out.

The U.S. border has been shut to Canadian cow since May 2003 after an Angus cow in Alberta tested positive for the disease. The disease has hit Canada's cattle industry an estimated \$7 billion but it has also created a growing meat-packing industry in this country, which has lost jobs in the U.S. \$600 to be determined whether the Montana judge who ordered the temporary injunction in March, at the behest of food outlets, will pushback with allowing later this month to seek a permanent closure.

HOMINGS A Palestinian teenager blew himself up outside a shopping mall in central Israel, killing four Israeli women and injuring over 50 people. The suicide attack after five months of relative calm was condemned as "infidels" by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and led to a spate of retaliation that resulted in at least 10 Israeli deaths. In Iraq, a suicide bomber detonated his



TO THE PEN As was in memorable section 808—the Clinton-era former national and treasurer who served as chief of state for WorldCom Inc. Now a weary General Motors, U.S. Inc. became the symbol of CEO wrongdoing after a New York judge sentenced him to 30 years in prison for concealing the \$650-billion fraud that led to the largest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history.

chop-aw U.S. soldiers handling out candy and gifts to children in a Baghdad slum. The bomb killed one soldier and at least 15 children and teens, at Qadisi took the rare action of disavowing the attack.

And in Lebanon, a powerful or bomb killed one man and wounded three more, defense minister in the ongoing aftermath.

testion. The latest in a string of political bombings, that would first to target a pro-Syrian politician. There was speculation the attempt on Mar's life was because he knows too much about the assassination of former politician Rafik Hariri in February, the incident that sparked a popular uprising.

U.S. POLITICS President George W. Bush came under increasing pressure to fire his trusted vice, Karl Rove, after Rove was reported to have revealed the identity of a CIA operative, Valerie Plame. She is the wife of former ambassador Joseph Wilson, who was highly critical of Bush's reason for the invasion of Iraq. The matter is being investigated by a special prosecutor.

A poll showed 43 per cent of Americans believe Bush is "honest and straightforward," compared to 38 per cent in January.

PHILIPPINES Philippine President Gloria Arroyo is vowing not to quit despite mass resignations by senior officials and a noisy protest rally by about 30,000 in Manila. Opposition parties claim Arroyo engaged in vote-rigging at the 2004 election, and that her husband took payoffs. But the opposition does not appear to have the numbers for impeachment, and the courts in street demonstrations are nowhere near the hundreds of thousands who formed anti-Perdido Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 1998.

MASSAGRE At least 6,000 villagers in semi-arid northern Kenya fled their homes after a long-running clan dispute over pasture.

MOVIES | BY THE NUMBERS Given the choice, more Canadians (54 per cent) would prefer to watch a movie at home on DVD than go to a cinema (35 per cent). That's according to a poll of moviegoers at the same time. The DVD preference index for every age group. Yet only 23 per cent said they watched fewer movies in the store last year than the year before.

Map: Movies for avoiding the theatre

Cost of ticket	35%
Booking	35%
Cost of snacks	17%
Movie quality	25%

SOURCE: ADVERTISING, MARKET RESEARCH, AND ANALYTICS

turn head and was left at least 75 people dead in three days of clashes. They were sparked by heavily armed Boko Haram leaders who slaughtered 24 Gambia villagers, many of them children, near the Librarian border.

ANGLICANS Already riven by the debate over homosexuality, the Anglican Church is facing further division over its plan to allow women bishops. The ruling group took the first step by voting to remove the legal impediments to women being offered the mitre. Some 34 of the world's 38 Anglican bodies already support the idea. But significant groups strongly oppose the action and talk of leaving the Church.

CANADA

GAY MARRIAGE Ralph Klein said he won't be writing on the wall and will no longer fight same-sex marriage. With the federal law close to passing in the Senate, Klein said Alberta will allow gay weddings. But he intends to pass provincial legislation so that church leaders and marriage commissioners would not be obliged to perform the service if they don't want to.

MISSING Her keys were still in the car, her credit cards, shoes and cell phone were scattered nearby in a sports park near home. Edmonton police and a small army of volunteers launched a massive hunt for Liam White, 39 and four months pregnant with her second child, who went missing in her way to work on her last Tuesday, July 12. Police say there is no evidence of foul play but they are perplexed by her disappearance.

SURVIVOR A woman in her 30s who survived from a raftboat on the mouth of Vancouver's Fraser River spent over eight hours swimming with the current in chilly George Strait before being rescued by a passing boat near one of the Gulf Islands. Experts were amazed anyone could survive more than three hours in 10-degree temperatures. The woman said she swam minutes from giving up when she was pulled from the water.

DONATIONS The Conservative party closed bars, but the B.C.M.P. is still investigating a controversial B.C. M.P. Government Council after two donors allegedly gave \$600,000 directly to him in 2003 and did not receive



NEW ARRIVALS A casting of over 100 North American immigrants nearly 200 of them from Canada—washed down the Yal River, spent six months in the United States, and many new lives in Texas. Despite the immigrants, at least 200,000 from North America are projected to appear to be in the state. If so, with a high birth rate, it could be home to the largest Jewish population in the world by next year, surpassing the U.S.

A PROTEST ON A MOUNTAIN There is some confusion about the donations because money given before official election campaign is not always eligible for a tax deduction.

WANA Federal fisheries officials are trying a new approach to lure Lanes the local area away from the petting business in Nootka Sound. Last year, officials tried to whale up Lanes and transport them 400 km south to the Victoria area. But local natives opposed and organized protests to disrupt the plan. This year, officials are closing some fishing areas near the coast off Gwaii River in the hope that Lanes will stop coming by to play with the herring and stay in the deeper waters where he would be more likely to join a growing pod of killer whales.

BY PATRICK LAMONTAGNE



Mansbridge on the Record



PRIME-TIME KILLERS

How much can you believe when you interview vicious criminals on the air?

THESE HAVE, apparently, been anxious times in solitary confinement for rights and killer Paul Bernardo. He's told his lawyer that he desperately wants to inform the country about how dangerous his former wife is, and to do that he wants media access. As it turns out, the correctional service denied his request, so don't expect to be sitting, for the second time this summer, a murderer's talking court on the airwaves.

Because the CBC was said to be the Bernardo trust's network of choice for such an interview, I guess they're trying to get my head around how I'd feel asking questions—of, in fact, it came to that, infamously, I started interviewing people outside the business with two simple questions: 1) Paul Bernardo wants to be interviewed, should we do it? 2) If we do it, will you watch?

I talked to a few dozen individuals—gay station attendants, marginal workers, store clerks, bankers, a consultant, even a politician (he didn't hang up on me and did answer my questions, as did everyone else, so my response rate, unlike that for most pollsters these days, was excellent). The answers I got were remarkably similar—everyone said “no” to question No. 1, quickly and firmly, with almost all adding that it would be irresponsible to give a vicious criminal prime-time platform.

“

As it happened, Bernardo's request was denied, so don't expect to be seeing, for the second time, a murderer's talking court.

But the three-quarters of the people, with some initial hesitation and thus a bit of sheepishness, answered “yes.” And that's the thousands,

isn't it? If my informal survey has any relevance to reality, people don't want Bernardo to be on the air, but if he were, many would watch.

How do you, how should you, weigh an interview's potential news value, if any, against the potential to incite the content of that conversation may have? Or, in this case, would it be seen as either over-substance? What would Bernardo have to say that might have news value? His concerns about the recently released Karla Homolka may be interesting to some, but he's expressed them in the past. Do Canadians want to learn details of his life inside the walls of Kingston Penitentiary? Perhaps. And then there's the “nonsense” issue—but could anything Bernardo might say on that be believed?

All this has made me think of a somewhat similar situation we faced ourselves in late last year. After successfully challenging a decision that had prevented us from interviewing a detained Algerian whom CBS suspects of all Qaeda acts, I found myself sitting in an Ottawa jail directly across from the man in question—Mohamed Elbarazi. There are diver issues about Elbarazi's past that he doesn't dispute, but after almost two years in detention, no charges had been laid. A firmly used security certificate allowed Canada to keep him locked up until deportation is arranged. I was fairly aggressive during the half-hour interview, but didn't actually learn anything new. How did witness react? Many of the comments we got were negative—not toward Elbarazi, but toward me for my line of questioning. I suspect that if we ever do make that trip to Kingston for another jailhouse interview, no one will have their complaint.

Margaret Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National To comment, letter@cbcnews.ca

Passages

WRAPPING UP Sunday nights just won't be the same. Popular sex counselor Sue Johnson, the grandmother who tells you stuff your mother wouldn't dare, is giving up her *Sunday Night Sex Show* after 21 years on Canadian TV. She says she intends to concentrate on her U.S. show because Canadians have heard enough of her advice.

DIED He was Newfoundland's second premier—cathartic, fiery and hard-boring. Frank Moores had two broad claims to fame: he was the Terry who ended Joey Smallwood's long reign in 1972; then he became a key backroomer who helped Brian Mulroney to power in 1984, in the process ending up on often controversial government committees. Moores died of liver cancer in Perth, Ont. He was 73.

BORN Quebec-born Gerald Clark, the longtime editor of the now defunct *Montreal Star*, was one of Canada's top foreign correspondents in his day. He covered the Allied invasion of Normandy and later the Normandy war crimes trials. Clark died in hospital in home in Montreal. He was 88.

DIED With his blue jeans and trademark ponytail, he was the epitome of the Independent MP. B.C.'s Chuck Cadogan arrived in Ottawa to champion victims' rights—after his 16-year old son was killed in a random street attack. But he came to represent the derogatory constituency politics when, among other things, he voted in May to meet a nuclear election. Cadogan, 57, died at home in Surrey after a two-year fight with liver cancer.

BACK With the NHL lockout ended, Don Cherry, 71, will be back on *Hockey Night in Canada*, the CBC announced. A new rule change this season, Cherry won't be subjected to the old seven-second delay to filter out his caustic opinions.



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Interview | **Taz Stuart**

'PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR MOSQUITOES TO DEVELOP IN DAYS'

WINNIPEGGERS ARE *disseminating* mosquitoes. Each summer, the local media painstakingly analyse the latest battle plan for coping with the annual scourge. Residents follow the daily trap counts—the numbers caught in the city's 13 traps—as closely as the weather. And passions run high. While some coarsen their diets to a hot soup on the winged terror, a group known as Concerned Residents of Winnipeg loudly objects to the practice of using the chemical malathion to kill adult mosquitoes. The Stuart, 35, mended into this mischief when he took over as Winnipeg's entomologist last September after serving 12

years as the woe captain in his native Regina. Stuart drew immediate attention for his long curly locks and rock star looks. ("He's the lead singer of the band," gushed Mayor Sam Katz, "and I'll buy a ticket to his concert any day.") But Stuart was also intent on

making the city's \$3.2-million anti-mosquito campaign—the biggest in Canada—more draconian. He wanted to use more environmentally friendly biological remedies to kill mosquitoes at an early stage, rid water treatment ponds such as dragonflies and used

"tipping"—the common term for spraying malathion. Also, faced with what Stuart described as a mosquito outbreak of "just one progeny"—and with the discovery that some were infected with the feared West Nile virus—authorities moved during the entire city, leading critics to charge that Stuart had succumbed to political pressure.

What's the general thinking behind what you've been trying to do?
We want to be very proactive in eliminating the use of chemicals for controlling mosquitoes. We have a three-year, phased-on plan to go biological. That's because the chemicals don't just go after mosquitoes, but all insects in their path, including natural predators like dragonflies and damselflies. Also, we want to focus on smacking mosquito larvae in the water; it's easier than having to deal with a free-flying adult.

Isn't Winnipeg the only major city in Canada still using malathion?
For mosquito purposes, yes. It's very different when dealing with disease-carrying mosquitoes, like the ones that carry the West Nile virus. In a declared health emergency, I'm pretty sure everyone would beg

So what went wrong this summer?
It was extremely wet for much of May, June and early July. Then it got humid and hot. Those are perfect conditions for mosquitoes to develop from egg to adult in as little as three or four days.

Your critics say you've caved under pressure from the public and politicians.
No. This was a scientific decision. And it doesn't mean our biological program has failed or that we're abandoning it.

Are mosquitoes really any worse in Winnipeg than other cities?
That's a very subjective issue. Winnipeg has a lot of negatives, including heavy, heavy soil that doesn't absorb water very well. And standing water is a breeding ground. Also, in every city, there's always three or four times that repeat themselves year after year. Here, one of those is mosquitoes.

So, how is your job here different from what it was in Regina?
I'm different in the news a lot more.

DEAN DESSAINE

FORBES FTI

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Murray Hill, ConWest News Service

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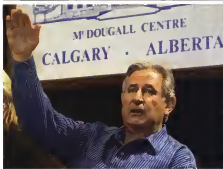
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WHAT'S RALPH UP TO?

Alberta's latest batch of health care reforms is less than meets the eye



WHEN IT COMES to health care reform, Ralph Klein has always talked loudly while wading a very treacherous. The results never quite matched his fiery rhetoric. Last week, it was déjà vu all over again. Just six months after the premier delivered a much-hyped speech about finding a "third way" in health care—something between the survival-of-the-richest U.S. system and Canada's publicly funded monopoly—Klein unveiled his latest round of reforms. Critics and supporters alike found themselves underwhelmed.

Federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh, who rarely passes up an opportunity to denigrate

the Alberta premier as the champion of privatization, sounded pleasantly surprised. Dosanjh said he found nothing objectionable in Klein's 12-point program. Meanwhile, those who advocate a far more vigorous role for the private sector in health care expressed dismay that they'd been misled, yet again. "What we needed was a visionary politician," grouched Nadine Tam, senior health policy analyst at the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute. "What we got was a reiteration of the status quo."

There is much to admire in the list of initiatives unveiled by Klein and his health minister, Iain Dwan. Among other things,

Canada's richest province is moving to aggressively recruit primary physicians, expand drug coverage to more Albertans and set fiscal limits on how long patients must wait before receiving specific surgeries and services. But the only truly controversial proposal is to allow patients to pay out of pocket for what the policy describes as "enhanced medical goods and services beyond what doctors decide is medically necessary."

At a jam-packed news conference in Calgary, Klein is seemed eager to highlight that initiative, pointing it out even before reporters asked him about

it. "Uh, stem right," said the premier in his trademark fashion, "with the pooling choice as in paying for supplementary health services. This will be controversial itself. I don't know if this will violate the Canada Health Act or not. We don't think it will."

One could sense a rift in the room. This was, after all, the man who almost singlehandedly torpedoed federal Conservative Leader Stephen Harper's chances of becoming prime minister when he crashed, during last year's federal election, about introducing health-care change that might contravene the Canada Health Act. (In the end, Klein did nothing more radical than throw hundreds of millions of dollars into the health portfolio.) "Isn't that two-tier health care?" demanded one critic.

"I don't think it's a two-tier," disagreed Klein, before conceding, "I guess it's subjective."

The jury is out on just how contentious "stem right" might prove to be. The only example of an "enhanced service" Klein and Dwan could come up with was a surgical procedure known as Remington hip resurfacing, named for the English city where it was pioneered. It's far less invasive, but more expensive, than standard hip replacement. But it leaves patients with greater flexibility because less of the thigh bone is removed. Still in the experimental phase in Canada, the technique is considered best suited for active people under the age of 55, in large measure because it would

allow for a full hip replacement operation if needed later in life. Under the Alberta proposal, anyone could have this procedure as long as they were willing to bear the costs themselves,

"I don't think it's two-tier," says the premier, "I guess it's subjective."

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either directly or through private insurance. Most opposed that "tweedy" doesn't challenge the Canada Health Act because it applies to an enhanced, rather than a medically necessary service. But for some, it raises troubling questions all the same. Tam Newsworthy, director of the Centre for Health and Policy Studies at the University of Calgary, wonders what happens if doctors someday want the Westminster procedure deemed a mandated operation, at least for certain patients. How busy is the province will want to go along and bear the full cost? "What the government's doing," says Newsworthy, "is place a potentially necessary service into the private domain. And if they do that for all medical innovations coming on stream, it means only people who can afford to pay for them will benefit."

Another concern is queue-jumping. While Klein and Don Cousens patients who paid for enhanced services would not be frustrated, critics suggest that's very hard to police. Michael Rachlis, a Toronto-based physician and independent health policy analyst, points out that many doctors now work simultaneously in public hospitals and private clinics—so there is often an inherent financial incentive to do the more expensive procedures first.

All the same, both Rachlis and Newsworthy say the prepossession announcement last week are far less radical than Klein's previous subcutaneous would have suggested. "I think the dedication of medicine in Alberta has been very successful in making their care," says Rachlis. "While I honestly believe Mr. Klein has been trying to make the health system more private, he's also a good reader of public opinion. So every time he's come to the brink of actually doing something, he's backed for very good political reasons." In fact, Newsworthy suggests "tweedy" may simply be Klein's third "dismantling of his move to the field" before his widely expected departure from public life, perhaps as early as the fall. This, the bowing before health reform will be left to a successor—or to other provinces. "The real boldness," says Newsworthy, "is in Quebec, where they have been playing fast and fancy with this stuff for a while, sometimes in complete and flagrant violation of the Canada Health Act." That trend could well accelerate, depending on how the Quebec government responds to the Supreme Court of Canada



The scene at Calgary's former Grace Hospital, now a private facility, brought heated comment to object to in Klein's reforms

in June last month which said that unless waiting times in the province are dramatically reduced, private insurance plans must be allowed to fill the void.

But it's not just Quebec and Alberta that are wrestling with these issues. While the spotlight was on Klein last week, a private clinic in Toronto announced it would be offering cancer patients direct access to the new wave of high-priced drugs that the public system, in Ontario anyway, is unwilling to fund. Those include a blockbuster such as five-headed breast cancer drug Herceptin, which can cost as much as \$45,000

a year. It has been approved for direct use in some provinces, most recently B.C., but not in Ontario.

For all of that, Klein's latest pronouncements certainly left some feeling they had lost a champion. The Fraser Institute's Barnett argues Klein said all the right things when he launched his "third way" initiative. "Many Canadians still believe there are only two ways to do the health care—the Canadian way or the American," says Barnett. "But it's simply not true. Of the 30 most developed nations in the world, 28 of them, including Canada, have universal health care programs. Only the U.S. and Mexico do not. And of those 18 nations, fully 27 say that if you want to pay for your own services with your hard-earned dollars when the government's program is unwilling or unable to meet your needs in a timely fashion, you can do so."

Canada, Barnett says, is the only exception, the recent mix of private clinics and opening-out emergencies notwithstanding. And he held out high hopes that Klein, who once led a successful crusade to eliminate Alberta's debt, could have taken a similarly "visionary approach" to reworking health care. Then again, Barnett cannot be entirely surprised that the premier proved not to be his man. With retirement in the offing, Klein's crusading days are clearly over. □

'THE real boldness is in Quebec, where they have been playing fast and fancy with this stuff for awhile

'AN EVIL INFLUENCE'

Britain's Muslims are under pressure to root out extremists and 'Britishify,' writes ROBERT MASON LEE

IN THE WAKE of the July 7 London explosions, there came a secondary blast of horrifying statistics. Number of bodies recovered from the Piccadilly line wreckage: near King's Cross, 3,000. Number of closed-circuit television tapes being reviewed by police: 5,000. Most worrisome of all—number of British or British-born Muslims who have attended al-Qaeda terrorist training camps, according to recently released Metropolitan Police Service commissioner Lord Stevens: 3,000.

It is an astonishing figure by any measure, but even more stunning when set beside the

number of Muslims in the U.K. Stevens's numbers mean that nearly one in every 539 Muslims in Britain has had terrorist training. And other reports say five times that number again, or about one percent of the British Muslim population of 1.6 million, might sympathize with Islamic terrorist groups. Set this beside the estimated resources of the state: Sir Ian Blair, Stevens's religious-matters commissioner of the Met, says a mere 250 "active operatives" are being kept under surveillance across Britain.

Still, it is worth pointing out that even the direst of estimates leave 99 per cent of British Muslims innocent, decent and law-abiding. Amid the soul-searching and finger-pointing that followed the news that Britain has joined the distinction of being the first country in the West to fall victim to homegrown suicide bombers, it soon became clear that there is no single or simple explanation as to the reason why. As the British people and the Muslim community, grappled with how to prevent homegrown terror from spreading, proposals ranged from tougher laws against extremists to demands that Muslim leaders be more closely outspoken in their condemnation of the attacks.

Neither these, nor any other measures, seemed likely overnight to root out the poison that sent four men—three from Leeds and one of Pakistani descent, the fourth a Jamaican-born Muslim who lived in a London suburb—on their deadly mission: "just as it has taken a generation for these problems to develop, so it would take a generation for them to be solved," said Sir Ian Blair, Labour MP for the London riding of Tower Hamlets in the London evening of Tuesday. Writing in the conservative weekly *The Spectator*, where he is editor, Conservative

MP Boris Johnson reached the same conclusion: "This is a cultural calamity that will take decades to correct."

Few were willing to wait that long, and there were anxious calls for a clear and immediate response from within the Muslim community. Prince Charles called on "every true Muslim" to root out extremists in their midst, saying an "evil influence" had been brought to bear on the bombers. "Some may think this cause is Islam," he said. "It is anything but." Home Minister Rory Stewart, meanwhile, convened nine cabinet meetings to tighten anti-terror legislation, make it easier to deport extremists, and to assist mainstream British Muslims in confronting the "pernicious and poisonous" doctrine of Islamic extremism.

It was a sharp turn-around for Blair, as, rightly or wrongly, Britain has long been viewed as a haven for Islamic extremists. The government has no idea how many illegal aliens are resident in the country (its own estimates reach as high as 570,000). It has also failed to respond harshly to extremist Muslim teachings, instead combining appeasement with political correctness. It took ages to silence one of London's most influential Muslim clerics, Abu Hamza al-Masri, or "Hamza the Monk," as he is popularly known, and then only because of a sudden warmer stance by the U.S. government (blinded in one eye, Hamza also has a hard apparently fighting with the mujahideen warriors in Afghanistan, and weeks ago was being taken out of London as a prize).

All that may now change. Blair recently



put a Racial and Religious Hatred Bill on the legislative agenda, in a move widely regarded as an attempt to protect the Muslim community from discrimination. But Downing Street was quick to point out last week that the act would also counter Muslims who sought to incite hatred against other

faiths. And the cabinet is considering measures that could prevent Islamic extremism barred by the U.S. and other countries from entering Britain. The government was also said to be weighing whether to open up of European human rights legislation that currently prevents it from deporting

extremists back to their own countries. However, it is unlikely that the terrorist ideology will be defeated by legislative action alone, and efforts will be needed to understand the social conditions that allow it to flourish. For one thing, despite the insistence of people like Prince Charles

and London Mayor Ken Livingstone that Britain is a multicultural society, this is only true in the large metropolitan areas—and of these, only London has escaped the creation of large-scale ethnic ghettos.

I lived part-time for five years in Richmond, a small and idyllic Yorkshire town. It was "a quiet little country"—flower boxes on stone cottages, cobblestone streets, we ate on bayleys. Charming—but in all my time there, I never once saw a member of an ethnic minority. And even I was a curiosity, the only non-Brit to happen to the town. It is the same in every village in the region, just as it is the same in so many small towns and villages from Land's End to John o' Groats. In Richmond I lost human hair's dove from Leeds and Bedford, which house heavy concentrations of Muslims. In the vast expanse of country between the cities, known as "Middle England" or "Little Britain," one is more likely to encounter a stranger than a Muslim.

Within urban areas, meanwhile, it is possible for Muslims—and other members of large immigrant communities—to spend their entire lives without interacting with mainstream Britain. Large-scale immigration from Britain's former colonies began after the Second World War, and about half of British Muslims originated from Pakistan. But multiculturalism was a word seldom heard prior to Blair's above-the-line victory in 1997. Although many Muslims today are second- or even third-generation British, and many have achieved positions of great respect in politics, business, and the media, there remains a sense among some of isolation from the mainstream, which only helps explain the mentality of the suicide bombers.

"There are young people from all backgrounds and communities who are looking for reasons to do something wrong because they have nothing else to do," says Councilor Muhammad Iqbal from Leeds, whose word includes a house used by one of the suicide bombers. "This is one of the most deprived areas of the country—there are

many problems with jobs, education, and so on." One south Leeds youth worker told the BBC that the reasons for alienation were more complex still, mentioning a growing "victim culture" among young Muslims from linking them to the suffering of Palestinians, Bosnians, Chechens and Iraqis. "These kids, wherever they are, want to create their own identities," he said. "The majority of the kids just want to be British, but ever since 9/11 they've been pushed back time and again into a Muslim identity."

Some wondered how to deal with the issue of young people educated in the British school system turning to radicalism. "Why aren't our schools giving positive role models or teaching these people about the history of Islamic mathematics and art?" asked Khan. "Why are their role models misquoting in Afghanistan?" The loss of identity does not happen when you are 16, but over a period of years." But another Muslim Labour MP, Khalid Mahmood, who has battled with extremists over the years, said much of the blame must rest with radical mosques and madrasah (Islamic schools), where teachings are "unregulated" and often inflammatory. Acid Spectator editor Johnson joined a chorus of calls for the "Muslim Council of Britain, and all the mosques in all the mosques, extremist or moderate, to scrutinize themselves more closely to what we think of as British values. That might be a first step toward what could be called the re-Britannification of Britain."

There were five optimistic voices addressing the larger and longer-term challenge of ensuring that Britain can become truly multicultural while retaining British in its core beliefs. But one who did was Muslim Labour MP Shabir Malik, whose Dewsbury constituency contains two of the provinces ruled by police. "Condemning alone is probably insufficient," he said. "We need to go beyond that. We also need to confront." He told MPs that the present situation is "the most profound challenge ever faced by the British Muslim community. Rather than divide us, these evil voices will serve to unite the British people and our resolve to deal with them." Calling the current situation "a defining moment for this country," Malik asked, "do you share my confidence that the Muslim and wider community will play its role and is equal to the challenge?" He assured you that your constituency of Dewsbury will not be found to be wanting. ■

HOMEGROWN TERROR

Cops—Ottawa has suddenly realized we may have a problem. CHARLIE GILLIS and JONATHAN GATEHOUSE report.



YOU COULD FORGIVE a humble commuter for feeling confused. Not so long ago, Public Safety Minister Anne McLellan was reassuring Canadians that a terrorist attack like the passenger train bombing in Madrid that killed 191 people in March 2004 was unlikely to occur on domestic soil. Authorities at home would surely catch word of the plot long before the bombs were in place, she assured reporters a few weeks after that attack, adding, "There is no necessity for Canadians to be in any way consciously alarmed."

Odd, therefore—and not a little disconcerting—to watch McLellan do a 180 last week and start selling the worst-case scenario herself. With workers still plying apart the railway wreckage in London, and news breaking that one of the bombers was born and raised on British soil, the minister spoke ominously of Canadian-based operatives who just might choose to do it the same here. And like someone who suddenly finds religion, she seems to have determined that it's high time for everyone else to repent as well. "I do not believe that Canadians are as psychologically

prepared for a terrorist attack as I think probably we all should be," she cried. "I found spiritual advice perhaps, but not exactly reassuring, coming from the woman charged with protecting the public. So what happened? A tragedy that almost

This scene in Montreal after the bombings of a Jewish school.

everyone agrees should serve as a giant wake-up call. As for whether the bomber's Canadian bloodline of British, or Palestinian, or Canadian ethnicity were slowly reducing the warnings we'd heard from security hawks for a school group. Ahmed Said Khadi, a Toronto man linked to al Qaeda, was killed in a shooting in Afghanistan in 2001, and his funeral home still held for their terrorist file. And past experience, like the 1985 Air India bombing that killed 329 people, or more recently an act of arson at a Jewish school in Montreal, have provided chilling proof that terror acts can be hatched within our own borders.

In the Internet age, distance and national borders are increasingly irrelevant for those peddling a message of hate. Gabriel Weisman, chief of the communications de-

partment at Jewish Affairs University, has studied more than 4,500 terrorist websites over the past eight years. "In the 21st century terrorism has changed," he says. "They don't react to raising flags anywhere. They live in a virtual world." Targets are selected and researched, money is raised, bombers recruited and insured, all online. Increasingly, that means an Internet cell in Lehigh or as little as a breeding ground for a suicide bomber as an Afghan cave, or a suburban Toronto basement.

The chemical belief that Canada's kinder, gentler values might somehow exempt us from the horrors suffered in London, Madrid, Bali and New York may also be misplaced. Those who study the psychological makeup of militants and suicide bombers say the

assassins, grievance and vendetta that fuel attacks in Iraq, Chechnya and Israel have been widely explored. Itan Fildes, a Wellington psychologist who has studied members of paramilitary organizations and terror groups for three decades, says they are generally neither intellectually trained nor sophisticated, but shockingly normal people. Organizations like al Qaeda groom recruits by focusing on the civilian Muslim victims of conflict, fanning a sense of outrage that can be shaped into a desire for revenge. "The image of the victim, the civilian victim, becomes an iconic message," says Fildes. Sympathizers start to see themselves as part of a marginalized, oppressed group, developing a "victim mentality" that transcends their ties to their birthplace, community or even family. Religion doesn't necessarily play a major role in the process

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"It's sociology, not a theology," says Fildes. And Miran, a psychologist at Tel Aviv University and expert on suicide bombers, says al Qaeda and its affiliated groups are finding a different class of would-be "martyrs" in the West—people who drift into terrorism because they find some hope rejected by society. It's a sharp contrast to what's happening in Israel or Iraq, where the ongoing conflict generates a large pool of volunteers eager to make what is often perceived as a brave sacrifice in an all-out war. Miran says he doubts the London bombings are the beginning of endless waves of suicide attacks like those in Baghdad. "The general society in Europe and North America and even their own communities don't support them," he says. In the West, it will be more



'OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS DIFFERENT, OUR CANADIAN VALUES ARE DIFFERENT. WE'RE NOT AS AGGRESSIVE.'

—WAHEED KHAN, Liberal member of Parliament for Ontario's Mississauga-Steeles riding

he had run. But as evidenced by the Sept. 11 attacks and the war in Iraq, the U.S. reaction to 9/11, one catastrophic attack is enough to transform a country's entire outlook.

All of this suggests the war on terror has entered a new phase, posing pressing questions for an ever-expanding circle of target countries. Do police, intelligence agencies and prosecutors have the powers necessary to fight an unseen enemy from within? Do they have the necessary resources? If so, are they using them?

In Canada, the answer is both yes and no. The Anti-Terrorism Act enacted after 9/11 bestowed on authorities potent tools with which to go after suspected terrorists. Among them: the ability to make arrests without warrants if they believe a terrorist attack is imminent, and the power for judges to compel terrorism suspects to answer questions. Civil libertarians greeted the law as the framework of a police state, but to date Khan's office makes the only time that the act has been used. Five other Muslim men are being held without charge (one, Syria, national Hassan Almutairi, has been jailed for almost four years) for suspected al-Qaeda ties under security certificates. The certificates, jointly issued by the Public Security and Intelligence Ministers, allow for indefinite detention and secret hearings in preparation for eventual deportation, but that power is under almost constant challenge. The small number of terror arrests and prosecutions can be interpreted in two ways, says Wesley Wilk, a security and intelligence expert at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. "It's either a sign there are only low levels of terrorist threat in Canada, or that whatever security edicts have been issued by the government."

If nothing else, experts say, even the London bombings demonstrate our dependence on law enforcement from ethnic communities. This could mean something as simple as recruiting more staff who can read Arabic newspapers, or who regularly

attend prayer services in certain mosques, says David Charters, a terrorism specialist with the University of New Brunswick's Centre for Conflict Studies. But it could also mean negotiating with community leaders to help monitor their own. Past attempts by CSIS to do so have been greeted with suspicion. "But there are some people out there you're not going to be able to satisfy, no matter what you do," says Charters, and the first step is intelligence gathering in understanding the moralities within larger



Waheed Khan in 2004, about his time in the House of Commons

groups. "You may be able to identify some of the lightning rods—individuals in mosques, or individuals taking part in religious activities at demonstrations," says Charters. "Demonstrating legitimate political activity, but it may tell you that there's something simmering out there."

The next question is, what would we do with that information? Some, like University of Calgary political scientist Barry Cooper, believe authorities have been too easily cornered in the past by accusations of civil bias or act offensively against suspects in minority groups. "We're probably even more politically correct than the feds are in dealing with Islamic fundamentalism," he says. "We need audits, much deeper monitoring of what is said in various mosques, and

much greater co-operation from the mainstream, moderate Muslim community."

On the other side of the Atlantic, that seems exactly the course Tony Blair has embarked on. Last week he proposed a sweeping new strategy to confront the "perverted and poisonous interpretation" of Islam that is offering encouragement and cover for terrorist activities. His plan, which was all-party support, includes an overhaul of immigration and asylum laws to make it easier to deport some extremist Muslim clerics and screen their replacements, ending the "glorification" of terrorism as a criminal offence, and new efforts to promote the peaceful face of Islam at home and abroad.

So far, the debate over whether Canada should be heading in a similar direction has been muted. Waheed Khan, the Liberal member of Parliament for Ontario's Mississauga-Steeles riding—which has a sizable Islamic community—says he still thinks an attack on this country is unlikely. "Our foreign policy is a little different, our Canadian values are a little different," he notes. "We're not as aggressive." But at the same time, he says, there's growing concern among Muslim Canadians that they have a role to play in the battle against terrorism. Khan endorses the idea of making the glorification of attacks a crime, and says the majority, moderate Islamic viewpoint must be brought to the forefront in Canada as well. More encouragement and guidance is needed from police, intelligence services and governments, he says. But the responsibility must be shared by everyone. "People talk about these fellows in London being of Pakistani origin, but they're not. They're British."

Khan, who came to this country three decades ago, tells about his own son, born in Toronto General Hospital, fluent in both official languages, a true Canadian. "What were the circumstances with those people who could be brainwashed into killing themselves? I cannot imagine it with my son." Some homes may just be too difficult for any of us to comprehend.

DIVIDED THEY STAND

JOHN GEDDES on the fear and testiness within Canada's Muslim community

IN THE YEARS since Sept. 11, 2001, distrust between Muslim groups and federal authorities, especially police and intelligence agencies, has at times seemed to be hardening into bitter resentment. Realists on both sides admit it. Some even concede they are in part to blame. But there have been hints recently of a thaw in that chilly relationship. In May, an unprecedented meeting was held, without publicity, at an Islamic centre near Toronto's Pearson International Airport, bringing together Muslim leaders, senior Canadian Security Intelligence Service representatives, and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, who oversees Ottawa's anti-terrorism strategy. One participant reported an exchange in which an Islamic cleric chided CSIS for failing to reach out to mosque leaders for help in investigations after 9/11. "You should have called us," complained the imam. "You know me, too," shot back a CSIS officer.

A tense bit of dialogue, but still dialogue. How such attempts might open up lines of communication will fare in the few-fifed minutes following the London terrorist bombings remain to be seen. Both sides know they have their work cut out for them. They are sensibly bringing out their messages. "We're recognizing the importance of outreach to the Muslim community," CSIS spokeswoman Barbara Campbell admits with a cautious change of tone for the federal intelligence service that's been eager to emphasize its toughness on terror. "The Muslim community has to overcome its reticence, its tendency to be a good soldier," allowed Ihsan Saloojee, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Canada's not exactly tough self criticism, but something for a preoccupied Canadian Muslim community leader.

What's going on is that both sides realize they haven't gained anything by letting relationships fester. There has been plenty of mutual suspicion. Following Sept. 11, weeks after Osama bin Laden was identified as the prime suspect, many Canadian mosque leaders were still insisting that Islamic ex-



terrorism couldn't be responsible. When the Liberal government tabled a new anti-terrorism law, Muslim and Arab groups opposed the measure as a threat to their civil liberties. Then a series of aggressive police raids—most targeting the Muslim Arab angle—confirmed to the minds of many Muslim leaders that innocent members of their community would be unfairly targeted.

While non-Muslim Canadians might view the well-known Arab story in isolation, many Muslims see the case as part of an alarming pattern. The Ottawa owner of a company that transferred things overseas was listed by the Canadian and U.S. governments as a financier of terrorism, until a judge ruled that RCMP evidence failed to show any terrorist link. A group of foreign students were rounded up in a Toronto RCMP raid and

identified by a federal lawyer as a possible terrorist cell, but they turned out to be guilty only of immigration offences. In both cases, Muslims who apparently had no terrorist ties were left trying to shake off the terrorist label—not such an easy thing to do if your name happens to be, say, Hassan or Muhammad.

No wonder some Canadian Muslims are uneasy. But when their backs are to dealing with government, now that the London bombings seem certain to intensify concerns about radical Islam in all Western democracies? There are few doubts about strategy among Muslim leaders. Take the simple question of how to respond to an attack like the one on the London subway. Many Muslim groups are fed up with being asked repeatedly to reject terrorism—if they reject society together. "Why should I get 15 medals each?" says Muhammad Badjane, executive director of the Canadian Arab Federation. "I have nothing to do with

ideas and constraints who are blowing themselves up." But Bouquie may have tried to add in his next breath that he unconsciously condemned the London bombings.

Bouquie noted that, frustrating as it is to be pressed to react to every new terror incident, it is important to keep on doing so. "You really don't have a choice but to speak up," he said. "Your silence will be taken as condoning terrorism." Even condemning terrorism, though, is sometimes not enough—depending on how that condemnation is packaged. Mohamed Elmasry, head of the Canadian Islamic Congress, denounced the London bombings, but was well featured in a *National Post* column and a *Globe and Mail* editorial for the role of that Canadian Muslim not to be "fired gently by association." Why the criticism of what seemed a reasonable plea? Perhaps because Elmasry's comments tend to be viewed unfavorably in light of his previous controversial statements, especially his suggestion last year on a TV talk show that all Israeli civilians over the age of 15 are legitimate targets for Palestinian suicide bombers.

In fact, despite his high media profile, Elmasry's name doesn't come up often in discussions of the evolving relationship between Ottawa and the Muslim community. One federal official said he has "fallen off the radar screen for obvious reason." On the one side is a diverse range of increasingly sophisticated groups. The Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association, largely a social network prior to 9/11, now advocates for civil liberties. The Coalition of Muslim Organizations, the organization McMillan and Coles connected with in their May meeting, is an umbrella group mainly for Toronto mosques that has the ear of top Liberals. Still relatively small, but making a name, is the left-leaning Muslim Canadian Congress, which acts much as an alternative to the religious conservatism of Elmasry's CIC.

There are also a few new Muslim voices inside federal politics. Liberal Yasmin Ratnayake, elected the first Muslim woman MP last year, came himself as the representative of her diverse Toronto riding, not her Islamic-Muslim community SOI, she's taking a close interest in the review of the federal Anti-terrorism Act, and sympathizes with Muslims, as well as Shi'as, who say they tend to be unfairly singled out for scrutiny under the law. Ratnayake says the act was an

RED CARPET IN OTTAWA

TARIQ RAMADAN, Europe's most famous scholar of Islam, was honored by Washington from taking up a U.S. university appointment last fall. He was once banned from France. Last week, London's tabloid *The Sun* filled its front page with articles over the fact that the Swiss author was scheduled to speak in the city only days after the subway bombings. He has been denounced as an apologist for suicide bombers, but also praised as a leading thinker on how Muslims can make peace with the West. There is at least one Muslim in democracy, though, where Ramadan's presence has triggered up controversy—Canada. When he lectured at the University of Ottawa in February, he was not only booed



in part by the city's police force, but also met with Foreign Affairs officials while he was in town.

From his home in Geneva, Ramadan has visited Canada regularly over the past decade. But the February visit was his first since the U.S. revealed the visa he needed to take up his post as Henry Luce professor of Islamic Studies and presiding at the University of Notre Dame. Exactly why Washington kept him out is not clear, but Ramadan has said he has been invited to replace The French blocked his entry in 2004, just after the prohibition the next year. Despite the U.S. and French concerns, Canadian authorities seek to remain as open as possible. "Dr. Ramadan brings important insights into building a harmonious, safe, open community," said David Poppel, the Ottawa Police Service director of community development. Poppel added that he was drafting a letter jointly with the group Muslim Presence in support of Ramadan, to be sent to Britain's *The Guardian* newspaper.

While Ramadan's Ottawa lecture drew some media attention, his visit to Foreign Affairs went unreported. But the department included an interview with him in the spring issue of its electronic quarterly *International*, profiling him as an Islamic reformer who "calls on Muslims to embrace Western culture rather than reject it." His latest book is called *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*. On suicide bombings, Ramadan was quoted last week claiming he has been misrepresented. "When we are dealing with such situations as we have to understand why it happens," he said, "the problem is not to justify."

Ramadan is controversial, but his fans have welcomed him.

understandable first reaction to Sept. 11, but its mandatory review by Senate and House committees, both of which are to issue reports by year-end, is a chance for cooler heads to prevail in controversy. "Yes, we had to respond to something in a hurry," she says. "But now let's do some consultation with normal people who want to lead a normal life."

Normal, though, is not how the debate unfolded after the London bombings. Canadian Muslims who had been hoping to see changes to Ottawa's anti-terrorism law now know they face another tougher challenge. Among

their main goals: drop the reference to "a political, religious or ideological purpose, objective or cause" from the law's definition of terrorism. Muslim groups complained that clause justified CSIS and RCMP practices asking questions about religious beliefs that offend many Muslims. But in light of reports of how the British suicide bombers were influenced by Islamic extremism, dropping the reference to religion from the Canadian law now seems far less likely. Instead of abolishing the law, Canada's Muslim groups may have to settle for repairing relations with the authorities who enforce it. ■

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Afghanistan | BY ADAM B. KHAN



WITH CHARLIE PATROL

Canadian reconnaissance missions help keep Kabul safe from the Taliban

CANADA'S RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON is on the move. Bouncing through the dusty back roads of Kabul Province in their Coyote armoured vehicles, its soldiers are scouring remote valleys and dispersed villages for any sign of danger. They're constantly on the hunt these days in remote Afghanistan, clamping on to the rugged backcountry on the lookout for anything amiss, a truck where there shouldn't be one, or a route flagged as a potential threat, a gathering where people don't normally gather, or going on to a rural

down village where rallies have, without something major, happen. It's their job to watch, one of the most crucial roles in the security apparatus that has kept Kabul a relatively safe haven in the otherwise unravelling realities of a nation still at war.

Reconnaissance, or *scout* (pronounced *scowl*) as it is commonly called among the men and women who ply this unheralded trade, is a Canadian specialty. These are the eyes and ears of NATO or Afghanistan, the best trained and equipped reconnaissance soldiers in ISAF, the Kabul Multi-National Brigade, keeping watch over the rugged

peaks and valleys of some of the most remote corners of Kabul province, surrounding the capital. They spend days, sometimes weeks, watching and listening for signs of enemy activity, searching for military convoys and spotting births, bunkered down alongside sinks, weapons and land mines.

On this mission, a three-day operation into the isolated Taghar Valley about 38 km east of Kabul in what is technically a German area of

responsibility, Charlie patrol is watching for weapons smuggling. Taghar is known backdoor route into Kabul, and NATO commanders have decided to send a message to anyone thinking of sneaking caches into the Afghan capital by travelling. Here, land mines are a real threat, lying in wait in and around the dry riverbeds, or wadis, that crisscross the barren landscape.

Charlie patrol's Coyotes hike in Sgt. Kevin Muller points an outdated Russian-era map of the isolated region. "It's a guessing game sometimes," he says. "These charts are usually a few hundred metres off the GPS reading." Figuring out the route that's been "designated"—a military term for a trail probably clear of mines—is the middle of three wadis leading off to the right of the dirt track, the 33-year-old Muller predicts his map and the vehicles hatch into mission. But before they can travel even a few

The hell and the rest of this unit, the NATO eyes and ears around the world.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM B. KHAN

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metres they step again. A local farmer is approaching, waving his arms above his head. He warns Sgt. Jim Hebert, the patrol commander, not to go in that direction. "Very dangerous," says the interpreter, mimicking the farmer's arching arms. "Many mines."

Canada's reconnaissance soldiers have come to accept land mines with the same indifference of those who regularly face the harsh realities of life in war-torn areas. After conferring with Maj. Gen. Hackett, his second-in-command, Hebert, 35, decides to push on into Taghar. Occasionally, the patrol commander will allow an operation if he feels the risks are too great, but not today. The route straggled out on the chart was designated only a few days ago, and by the looks of the sun-scorched terrain, herds of sheep have passed through recently, a sign that at least the immediate area are clear of mines. "Planting is over," says Hebert, who has led a lot of these patrols. "Our motto is 'Wing it.' You can do all the planning in the world but when it comes down to being on the ground out here, you have to be flexible, you have to think outside the box." Following his intuition and the wealth of knowledge he's gained from working the Afghan terrain, Hebert orders the patrol to move on, following the central wash that Maj. Gen. Hackett approved. As sunrise out, the wind is more direct.

Over the past year, the main Canadian contingent's role in Afghanistan has been to guard Camp Julien, its base on the southern outskirts of Kabul. The special- and recon squadrons, though, haven't been over-riding. It is a key component in the security apparatus in Kabul, helping maintain a stable environment for the government of Hamid Karzai. It also provides some of the training for the Afghan army. NATO can host it in this crucial capital region of Afghanistan. In fact, Lt. Col. Jess Decker, the Norwegian chief of operations for KFOR, regards the Canadians as a key asset. Their recon patrols have been shot at and jammed, heard radios across overhead, faced off against enemies on the move, unaccompanied by the Afghan cultural mission. For all that, says Decker, "they are the legends most important surveillance asset."

The job, however, can be so strenuous in scope that even the soldiers of their themselves often do not see what the bigger picture is. "Sometimes it's confusing for us," says Hebert. "We spend long hours out in these remote places without really any idea



Hebert (above) and Page (left) will keep watch, but for now they are not allowed to intervene.

of why we're here, or what the end result will be." But that's just the nature of the job, he adds. It's the war planners at NATO headquarters in Kabul who piece together the information his men and women gather.

The Canadians have set up camp in a designated area overlooking the Taghar Soud in his Coyote, Cpl. Ili. Da Vall, 36, fine-tunes a monitor of the thermal camera, a state-of-the-art surveillance device that can produce crystal-clear images, day and night, from as far away as 15 km. "You see that village?" he asks, referring to buildings perhaps 1.5 km away. "It doesn't look like there's much going on there, but watch this." Da Vall flashes the camera in light, and you can only see women and children going about their business. Around the clock for the past three days he and others will be monitoring one of the camera's observation terminals set up in their vehicles. His current task for the soldiers of Charlie company, who've logged more hours in the field in these few months in Afghanistan than most soldiers would see in two six-month tours.

From this viewpoint, on a small tongue of dirt earth surrounded on three sides by potentially mine-infested hills, the village below looks like a quiet and peaceful. Aside from the wind gusting wildly against the patrol's mud-coloured canvas tents, the only

sounds are the buzz of insects and the lighted hum of birds. "Sometimes it's hard to keep yourself separated from the calm," says 30-year-old Cpl. Melissa Page, managing her observation post as one of the Coyotes. "We've been lucky so far."

They have to stay focused. You could sit for hours with nothing happening, and then suddenly, you see something."

The things they've seen range from heavily armed men to pickup trucks with machine

'OUR MOTTO
is "Wing it," says the
commander. "On the
ground out here you
have to be flexible."

guns from model launchers. Without going into too much detail for security reasons, Decker says recon has helped stop attacks on Kabul, including rocket assaults. But its task is to watch and learn, to pass on what they've seen and heard, to pass on what they've seen and heard, to pass on what they've seen and heard.

And frustratingly—not to get involved. "It's because the intelligence is currently mandated to monitor suspicious activity, though it is well prepared and equipped to do so. That constraint can be hard on soldiers who trained for combat as a cohesive

group in Canada before being deployed. They have arms, they have weapons and sophisticated Afghanistan's ancient terrain together for the better part of a year. But out the last few months of their tour, they're watching a somewhat static scene.

Despite on the second day of the operation, things with it stilling heat, a counter-attack to the windows of the night. Weather conditions at these altitudes can be unpredictable. Still, days of rain and heavy fog, storms make over the mountain peaks, the strong fury but passing with a whimper. Since patrols have to be ready for any possible attack and move as well as ambush and land mines. "Reconnaissance is a thinking man's game," says Hebert. "The situation changes rapidly and you have to adapt rapidly." Still, Hebert knows full well that a conflict zone would be a great test of his troops' morale—a test that may not be too far off.

Canada will be leading the NATO expansion into the north-west of Afghanistan by next February, a commitment that will be a new phase for recon and, undoubtedly, will provide opportunities to see all that training. "We have such a wide, robust capability," says Hebert. Recon soldiers can survive for weeks in harsh conditions, in armoured vehicles in the most secure areas, or on foot in the mountains. Their major section, situated in a mountain and based from a

ring to the media, a specially trained in point reconnaissance, often assigned to watching a single target for days on end with the presence for which sensors have become famous. These shifts will be crucial in Kandahar, Canada's southern destination in the Afghan nation-building project.

Until then, recon will stay focused on providing stability in and around Kabul in the run-up to the parliamentary elections scheduled for September. But the move south is an ongoing mission. "It will be a challenge," says Maj. Ross Ernst, recon's commander at Camp Julien. "But we won't be doing anything different down there. Reconnaissance is reconnaissance, regardless of the environment." Still, everyone knows that it will be Canada's most challenging deployment yet in Afghanistan, and the risk of recon will have to evolve. More of its missions, currently, will not cover, and engagement with insurgents is almost given. The south is the conflict zone of the Taliban's, the Wild West of Afghanistan where simply being on the ground is a liability.

The experience of an old U.S. Navy SEAL reconnaissance team that went missing in early July after being ambushed by Taliban fighters in the mountains of southwestern Kunar province highlights the dangers. Canada's recon squadrons will face this. One of the U.S. team's members escaped, the others were killed. But Hebert remains sanguine. Every recon mission goes on, he says, prepared for any possibility. "We have the firepower to deal with any kind of attack," he adds. "We also have the training and equipment to know how the enemy does that, the information is immense. That's a huge advantage."

Canada's own JTF2 also special forces team—already helped by some journalists watching it in and around Kabul—is a confirmed addition to the 2,000-member battalion heading for western Afghanistan, according to Gen. Rick Hillier, chief of defence staff. Recon will play a key support role for the JTF2 command, security and training—more than from which the class soldiers can launch operations.

For the time being, members of Charlie patrol are keeping their fingers tight. Until after the elections, they will continue to play the watch-and-wait game in Kabul province, working hard to maintain that edge soldiers need when they're out in potentially hostile territory.

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WHY WAL-MART IS GOOD

We've heard all the horror stories about the retail giant. But as STEVE MAICH reports, they're just not true.

THERE'S A PLACE on the western edge of Cleveland that encapsulates the story of the city—its proud industrial past, its slow depressing decline, its hopes for a brighter future. But the battle now being waged over that patch of barren wasteland is an even bigger tale.

It's called the eastyard flume, a 150-acre plot of luscious wasteland at the intersection of Interstates 90 and 71, in what was once the heart of Cleveland's thriving steel industry. The site has an idle since 1980, when LTV Steel went bankrupt. The finishing mill

was torn down, and the shells of a few remaining buildings have been crumbling long since. The plot is now littered with discarded scrap metal, concrete and junk. A dozen old cars here, a shattered TV there.

Soon, however, this site will also be a symbol of renewal. In May, work began on what will be the first big-box shopping center in this city of 390,000 people. It's called

Steelyard Commons, and will include a Target store, a Home Depot, a Staples, plus restaurants and smaller businesses. It's expected to bring close to 2,000 jobs to the city identified as the most impoverished urban area in the U.S. In the 2004 census, unemployment here rose to 11 per cent—nearly double the national average.

But there's a problem. Wal-Mart Stores,

the world's biggest retailer, will be the anchor tenant at Steelyard Commons, and that has transformed this place into another front in North America's most bitter retail civil war. Wal-Mart's critics say the company destroys local economies, putting small businesses out of business, that it abuses workers with low wages and policy bending, and that it drives urban sprawl and all the environmental damage that goes with it. And so, a coalition of labor leaders, activists and city councilors have banded together, vowing to keep Wal-Mart out even if it means killing the whole project.

It's a divisive political standoff that's been entered in communities throughout North

America over the past few years. To the project's advocates in City Hall, this is just the kind of development Cleveland so desperately needs. Aside from precious jobs, the mall will spin off US\$3.8 million in property taxes annually, US\$3.8 million of which will go to the city's struggling school system, plus US\$706,000 in local payroll tax. It will also give city residents a place to shop near home, rather than travelling to the suburbs. Officially, it will allow local residents to spend US\$4 billion a year in retail shops, a third of which currently goes outside the city. If ever there was a Wal-Mart that deserves support, they say, this is it.

Protesters against a proposed Wal-Mart in Guelph, Ont.; People in Maricopa

But that's just the point: Wal-Mart isn't engaged in a series of easy land-taking disputes. It's at war with a well-financed, well-organized opposition, determined to fight it on every front. From Los Angeles to the Saginaw, from Hartford, Conn., to Vancouver, a broad array of activist groups and unions have launched protests, lawsuits and campaigns, all aimed at dethroning Wal-Mart, halting its growth, and unseating its workforce.

Like most wars, it's about money and power, and the fiercest enemy a truth. Because even after all the scrutiny and analysis of the Wal-Mart phenom-

non, most of what we've been told about worker abuse, destroyed small-town economies, crushed suppliers and greedy management—is wrong.

TO CAROL FOOTE, it just didn't make sense. It was near the end of the summer of 2000, and most of her neighbors in Maricopa, N.B., were planning to drive to Monroeville, an hour and a half away, to buy school supplies for their kids at Wal-Mart. Foote knew that many in town already made regular trips there to buy household goods, clothes and electronics. And she knew every carload took more money from the local economy. But the price, they

said, were just too good to pass up.

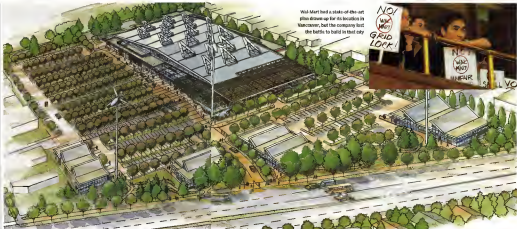
So, Foote and his friend Paula Rosalita decided to make it their mission to bring Wal-Mart to Minnichi. They organized a petition, and within six weeks they'd gathered 11,126 signatures in and around the town of about 20,000 residents. "The whole talk of the Minnichi was this petition," Foote remembers. "Lots of people would say, 'I'll sign, but we'll never get one,' and I'd say, 'C'mon, you've got to believe!'"

It took almost five years of trying, but last January Wal-Mart finally opened an outlet in Minnichi. Aside from creating dozens of jobs, Foote says the store has brought new life to the town's small commercial district. Pennington's has opened a store, Staples is on the way, and there is talk of a Quince's sandwich shop. To city dwellers, the arrival of such mass-market brands is no big deal, but in a little town like Minnichi, they represent investment that would've seemed impossible a few years ago.

This is how the Wal-Mart revolution now builds on small towns like Minnichi. The numbers are truly staggering. Wal-Mart had sales of US\$286.2 billion last year—meaning, if it were a country, it would be the world's 13th biggest economy, ahead of Sweden, Switzerland and Hong Kong. It has 1.7 million employees worldwide, slightly less than the population of Montreal. The company's stock has risen 79 percent in the past decade, going to a market value just north of US\$200 billion—more than the total combined value of Canada's Big Five banks. And profits rose 13 per cent last year, to US\$10.3 billion, making it the 5th largest public company in Canada.

In Canada, the growth is no less impressive. Wal-Mart first arrived here in 1994, buying 122 Woolco stores with about 15 per cent of the department store market. Over the next decade, it more than doubled its number of outlets and increased its market share to about 32 per cent. And while critics portray this as the work of a relentless invading force, the truth is most communities reached out to Wal-Mart and embraced it.

Foote heard lots of grumbling about Wal-Mart, but when she looks at what it has brought to her town, she has no regrets. "We weren't trying to hurt our city, we just wanted it to grow," she says. "The stores have changed so much, people had to go to Minnichi. And when they did, they'd buy their fuel there. They'd eat there. All our money was leaving town. I thought, 'This has got to stop.'"



Wal-Mart had a stake-of-the-art plan drawn up for its location in Vancouver, but the company lost the battle to build in that city.

Rather than Wal-Mart crushing the few local businesses like the critics warned, she suspected the store would invigorate them, because that's just what has happened in hundreds of places across the country.

In 2003, Research University completed the first major study on the company's impact on nearby small retailers, and found the opening of a new outlet is generally an economic boost for the whole area—retailing, other retailers and dining up-and at nearby stores. In metropolitan areas, a new Wal-Mart was generally followed by an increase of \$36.6 million in local sales, and the opening of 12.9 new stores. In rural areas, the commercial boost was \$28.1 million and 16.7 new stores on average. Meanwhile, economic growth in areas with Wal-Mart stores far surpassed growth in places without them. The first line of the study said it all: "It is difficult to make the case that a Wal-Mart store actually punishes other retailers out of business."

That study confirmed what Wal-Mart had

long claimed: that stores are economic generators, not predators. And, it means, even small-business owners are coming around to that view. A 2004 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce survey of more than 1,000 small-business owners across Canada found that just 16 per cent of respondents said they had been hurt by competition from big-box retailers like Wal-Mart and Home Depot. Nine per cent said the big boxes had actually helped them, while the vast majority claimed little or no impact.

Audy Grossman, however, doesn't buy any of that. Grossman is executive director of Wal-Mart Watch, a lobbying and public-relations organization that coordinates the efforts of several anti-Wal-Mart groups. In April, it launched a two-week media blitz across the U.S., with full-page ads in major newspapers like the New York Times alleging a "Wal-Mart assault" is a job away would sap it. It's a low-wage job, without much opportunity for advancement, and it's not easy. The average full-time Wal-Mart

'IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE CASE THAT WAL-MART PUTS OTHERS OUT OF BUSINESS'

worker in the U.S. makes US\$9.65 an hour, which works out to roughly US\$17,900 a year before taxes. If that worker is a solo owner trying to support a spouse and child,

it puts him only about US\$1,600 above the federal poverty line. Labour advocates say that in light of Wal-Mart's US\$10-billion profit, the company should pay higher wages. That's closer look at the numbers points a

different picture. Wal-Mart's 2004 profits worked out to a little more than US\$6,000 per employee, compared to US\$34,000 at General Electric, and US\$143,000 per employee at Microsoft. Despite minuscule earnings, Wal-Mart doesn't have as much room for generosity as its rival sponsors. Health care is another oft-cited complaint. Only about 48 per cent of Wal-Mart workers

work on a full-time basis. Wal-Mart's 2004 profits worked out to a little more than US\$6,000 per employee, compared to US\$34,000 at General Electric, and US\$143,000 per employee at Microsoft. Despite minuscule earnings, Wal-Mart doesn't have as much room for generosity as its rival sponsors. Health care is another oft-cited complaint. Only about 48 per cent of Wal-Mart workers

hey into the company's health care plan, and critics say that's because it's too expensive: US\$40 a month for an individual and US\$135 for a family, plus a US\$1,000 deductible. A recent study by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley concluded that Wal-Mart's wages and benefits are so low that its workers in California rely on about US\$88 in off-invoice public assistance every year. On the other hand, Wal-Mart points out that only about 36 per cent of all retail workers get employer-sponsored health care in the U.S.—meaning its plan is better than most in its industry. And while critics say the company should provide big benefits like those offered by General Motors, financial analysts point out that skyrocketing health care costs now threaten the stability of GM's business and have contributed to massive

and 30 applications for every available job. The various campaigns to paint Wal-Mart as an inhumane and abusive employer simply don't hold up to scrutiny, says Eliza Samuels, a legal analyst with the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a Virginia-based group that represents workers in disputes with their unions, and which has received grants from Wal-Mart's funding. Walcott firmly. "We think it's really pretty simple—if Wal-Mart is such a terrible place to work, then why are so many thousands of people so eager to work there?" she says.

But when it comes to Wal-Mart, perception and myth are powerful. In spite of all the evidence to the contrary, the company is still struggling with the consequences of its increasingly tainted image. For much of the past year debate raged in Vancouver's city council over plans to build its city's first

development: was the Campbell River Indian Band, which was hoping to buy the parcel of land from a logging company and had applied to have its status changed. After being turned down, some band members said racism had played a part in the rejection.

AS FAR AS Bruce Bartlett is concerned, people who hate Wal-Mart don't understand it.

Bartlett, a former deputy assistant secretary for economic policy at the U.S. Treasury Department, now serves as senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, a conservative Washington think tank. Over the past two decades, he has watched the company's ascending rise with admiration, and the recent public backlash with dismay.

His concern is not primarily for the company or its executives. Nor is he worried for the descendants of founder Sam Walton—

IF WAL-MART IS SO TERRIBLE, WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE SO EAGER TO WORK THERE?

lyoffs—hardly a model to emulate.

Even in Canada, where the health care issue is large matter, it would still be difficult to make a family or an associate's wage. But very few are in that position. While the majority of Wal-Mart employees work full time, the company also employs many students, seniors and people collecting a second income. And Wal-Mart says only seven per cent of its staff are supporting a family.

Perhaps most telling is the fact that most Wal-Mart workers share common. Many workers consider their Haven Associates stores an annual outing of Canadian employees based largely on weather satisfaction surveys, and for three of the past four years Wal-Mart has been named best retailer, due mainly to incentives like profit sharing and a discounted stock purchase program. And despite union claims of widespread mistreatment, Andrew Bell, director of corporate affairs with Wal-Mart Canada, says new hires usually receive between six

Wal-Mart. Opponents complained the store was an energy hogging blight on the environment. Wal-Mart responded by designing perhaps the most environmentally progressive big box store ever—its with skylights, cooled with shade trees, with rainwater running the toilets, and a geothermal heating system run by wind-turbine power. But nothing could counter the critics. "The box stores cause traffic congestion, cause air pollution and harm small businesses," said councillor Anne Roberts, who led the anti-Wal-Mart campaign. Last month, the council rejected the plan by eight to three.

Shortly after, Wal-Mart moved its second B.C. rejection in a week, this time when the town council of the Vancouver Island city of Campbell River voted 7-0 against a zoning application that would have paved the way for the retailer. More than 300 people spoke against Wal-Mart during three days of hearings, with many citing the proposed retail site should be used for a park. Putting

by for the wealthier class in North America. Rather, Bartlett worries about the impact the rise on Wal-Mart will have on the poor families who have come to rely on the stores. "The problem with the debate is that there's no one out there representing the people who've benefited from Wal-Mart, which is primarily the poor people," Bartlett says. "If you're stuck with a low income and you can reduce the amount you pay for basic items, then your real income goes up."

These savings are substantial. In 2002, a study by the New England Consulting Group estimated that Wal-Mart's "everyday low prices" on a wide range of groceries and household goods saves U.S. consumers US\$100 billion annually, or US\$600 a year for the average American family. That's because not only does Wal-Mart sell for less, it forces competition to cut prices in order to compete. USBS Working analysis measured grocery prices in various markets across the country and found that basic food items are



10 to 15 per cent cheaper in areas where Wal-Mart competes. So it's far from being an inflation-inducing, those savings are passed on for consumers, especially for working poor families. As W. Michael Cox, chief economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said in 2003: "Wal-Mart is the greatest thing that ever happened to low-income Americans."

As Wal-Mart has grown, those savings have been split off into every corner of the North American economy, even benefiting companies who've never set foot in one of its stores. In 2002, the cashing firm McKinnon & Co. derived into the so-called "Wal-Mart effect" and found it was the biggest single contributor to the growth of economic productivity across the U.S. between 1995 and 1999. According to McKinnon, Wal-Mart's pricing approach to competitive inventory management, and analysis of store traffic patterns to better deploy its staff age all hours, improved the efficiency of thousands of companies.

The U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research has found that Wal-Mart's prices have a significant impact on holding down the cost of inflation. That, in turn, helps keep interest rates low, and helps fuel economic growth.

All this isn't some happy accident, but a fundamental part of what makes the company tick. Ever since Sam Walton opened his first store in Arkansas in 1962, Wal-Mart has dedicated itself to providing the lowest possible prices for people living on a budget. "The underpinning of everyday low prices is a commitment to lowering the cost of living," says Wal-Mart Canada's Preference. "That was Sam Walton's vision, and it permeates the company today. The only way we can do that is by doing waste out."

Ever now, 35 years after Walton died, his obsession with cost is still evident in every aspect of the business. Head offices are sparsely and basic. Company officials fly

Sam Walton, the company's founder, opening a new store in Arkansas in 1962.

economy, and stay at budget hotels. And every person, in every division, is constantly encouraged to look for less expensive ways of doing everything.

Critics say this obsession with price has put relentless pressure on suppliers, even driving some out of business as they failed to meet Wal-Mart's demands for efficiency. But the company makes no apologies. It offers suppliers full access to sales data on every item sold, right to the minute and the penny. And every year thousands of small suppliers line up for the chance to get their products on Wal-Mart's shelves.

That helps explain why, for the past several years, Wal-Mart has ranked among the world's most admired companies, according to Fortune magazine's annual rankings. This year's survey of thousands of executives and industry analysts put the company first on numerous criteria for innovation, employee interest, quality of management, financial sound-

ness, and second for social responsibility. So, last year, when Bruce Bartlett saw opponents in his own city of Washington defend places for a Wal-Mart, he shook his head. "It's just stupid and frankly insane if you really care about the well-being of your communities," he says. "They're looking at themselves in the face, and they're just showing that they really don't care about people at all. They'd rather cater to a few bigwigs who're."

But the wheels turning against Wal-Mart are more than squeaky. They're coordinated, noisy, and deeply committed to their cause. For them, destroying Wal-Mart is a matter of life or death.

TOM ROBERTSON is a guy who means his promises on his sleeve. Standing in his wood-paneled office near downtown Cleveland,



Robertson says his mission is to keep the company 'the hell out of town'.

'IF WAL-MART CONTINUES TO EXPAND, IT COULD DESTROY THE LABOUR MOVEMENT'

the head of the northern Ohio chapter of the United Food and Commercial Workers union lays out his objections to Cleveland's proposed Wal-Mart, but he finds it hard to contain his concerns. "My mission isn't to organize Wal-Mart when they come to town. My mission is to keep them the hell out of town so they won't drive wages down," he explains, gaining steam as he speaks. "They just fuckin' destroy jobs, period, because they replace high-paying jobs with low-paying jobs."

Robertson is paid to defend the unemployed workers at a chain of small local grocery stores that will be threatened by Wal-Mart's arrival. But, he acknowledges, this fight is about more than just this city and his roughly 1,600 local members. It's about saving the union movement itself, and that's why so many labour organizations and their politicians have joined the fight. "If Wal-Mart continues to grow and expand inside their terms and conditions, with nobody

overseeing the way they treat people and companies, you-it could destroy the labour movement," Robertson says.

The plight of Robertson's two union affiliates may be. Over the past three years, his local has lost 3,000 members—a decline of more than 80 per cent—and he says Wal-Mart is the number one reason for it. "Cleveland stores have had to cut staff and wages to compete, and other companies have increased efforts to prevent unionization."

"The UPCW's membership crisis is but one example of a larger trend unfolding throughout the continent, as traditionally union-heavy industrial companies downsize, and as mostly non-union service firms, technology and retail become a much larger portion of the economy. The service economy is happening in Canada, where private sector unionization has fallen from 26 per cent in the early 1970s to just 15 per cent in 2003. In short, organized labour is dying a slow death and its

financial strength and political influence are waning as a result."

The fight over Wal-Mart is really a fight to halt organized labour's gradual death-spiral. If the unions are to turn the tide, they need to be as retail, and if they are going to get into retail, they have to get into Wal-Mart—union leaders themselves acknowledge as much. As Stuart Anuff, organizing director of the AFL-CIO, America's umbrella organization for trade unions, told *Forbes* last year, "If we want to survive, labour has no choice but to organize Wal-Mart."

They've spent no expenses to date. For the past five years, the UPCW has sent organizers around Canada and the U.S., trying to get Wal-Mart workers to sign a union card and lose certification votes. It spent a four-year effort, at a cost of about 125.5 million a year, to curtail a single Las Vegas store. But so far, they've had no luck.

Wal-Mart has been equally aggressive in keeping the unions out. Managers are

encouraged to report union activity, and the UPCW points to dozens of cases in which it accuses the company of firing workers for working on behalf of the union. When the UPCW was able to get a unit certified in Jonquière, Que., the company responded by shutting down the store. Police or unions, however, shut this is not a fight over worker rights. "At the end of the day, this campaign is all about money for the union," he says. "The union is looking for dues to finance their operations. If they could collect money from our thousands of associates across the country, this would amount to millions of dollars a year into the union and out of the pockets of our workers."

Lately, though, the unions and their allies have changed their approach. Efforts to organize have been trimmed, as they've decided to focus on dismantling the company and slowing its growth. Hence Wal-Mart Watch's publicity campaign, and the union-supported zoning fight cropping up everywhere. "It's an effort to destroy Wal-Mart because the company's continued growth and success is really an argument against the need for unionization," Rosenbaum says.

But Andy Grossman says the union fight is only part of the picture. As he sees it, Wal-Mart is driving a vicious cycle of stagnation with lower prices, and leads over time to a single player assembly owning the economics of the industry for everybody. Pretty soon, there are fewer employees, lower wages, less medical coverage, more poverty—all widening the gap between the rich owners of Wal-Mart stock and the poor who shop and work there. "This is a societal fight," Grossman explains. "Wal-Mart is a symbol, because they're as good at what they do, others have to emulate them. The company's reach is so broad, we need to change the relationship between it and the community it seeks to do business in, otherwise it's going to continue to destroy our societies."

For Grossman, there are the stakes: social destruction. Never mind that most of the research refutes this view. Never mind that millions more consumers vote with their feet and their wallets every year, opting for the financial freedom Wal-Mart affords. The point is that Grossman, and thousands of others, believe with near-religious zeal that Wal-Mart is dangerous. And the way to destroy

BACK IN Cleveland, Chris Rorayne is still a little baffled by the whole controversy. As

chief of staff to Democratic Mayor Jane Campbell and former head of the city planning commission, he knew enough to expect opposition to any plan to bring Wal-Mart to the city. And he knew his boss would be looking horns with the very union bosses that helped put her in office in 2001.

Still, he didn't expect the debate to be so nasty. Opponents tried, and failed, to pass a change to zoning laws to block the company out, and protesters recently tried to crash Campbell's re-election campaign kickoff. Former supporters have denounced the mayor for selling out to the Great State of Corporate America. "We see this as a first step toward a bigger turnaround, toward making Cleveland into a city that can attract residents," Rorayne says. "We know these are starter jobs, but if the city has been a success story of our employment base and a starter job is better than no job, from our perspective. We need jobs, period."

And while there is certainly a vocal faction, led by the UPCW, moving to keep fighting Wal-Mart every step of the way, it remains in the minority. With the support of about 76 per cent of residents in a recent poll and with a legal building permit in hand, it appears Wal-Mart has won this battle. The war, though, is new terrain, and the company knows it. Already it's getting much more difficult and expensive for Wal-Mart to build stores. It is used thousands of times every year by local activists, disgruntled co-employees, and unions. Thanks to a steady stream of aggressive press, thousands of consumers would sooner go barefoot than buy shoes there.

The company, as always, puts a positive spin on things. Pollster says all the scrutiny will only make Wal-Mart stronger and more resilient. He says it will keep listening to the complaints, and acting to address what it can. But the one thing that will not change is Sam Walton's admonition to put the customer first, always. Carol Potts likes it that way. "I think sometimes it's just easier for people to blame the other guy," she says. "If you customers aren't coming back, maybe you should look at why they're not coming back rather than trying to point the finger."

But the war on Wal-Mart raises more complicated questions. If the company helps poor families, creates decent jobs and fuels economic growth, what does it say that so many are so determined to stop it? More important—if Wal-Mart loses this fight, who wins?

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CONDIMENTS FOR CONDOS

Upscale retailers like Whole Foods Market are the latest must-have amenities in luxury developments

LIFE IS JUST AN ELEVATOR RIDE AWAY.

That could be the motto of Vancouver's condo-buyers. Or a savvy marketing slogan for realtors, developers and retailers working together on mixed-use developments that are all the rage in cities throughout North America. Vancouver, which more than a decade ago started building condos seven on top of grocery stores, is on the cutting edge of this trend. There are three condo towers under construction that will house a McDonald's, a London Drugs, or a Safeway in the city's trendy Kitsilano neighbourhood alone. And

now a more upscale player is about to go into the game: Whole Foods Market.

The Austin, Tex.-based organic grocer has 171 stores in North America and the United Kingdom, including a stand-alone location in West Vancouver. Now it is getting in on the ground floor, so to speak, at the Crossroads, an eight-storey official condo project planned for a site near City Hall. There are few details available about the project, which isn't expected to begin construction until 2007 and hasn't yet got paid any units. Still, Andrew Gurne, president of PCI Developments Corp., says the grocer should be a terrific asset for the Crossroads. "Whole Foods is a store," he says. "They're an exciting retailer. People enjoy the experience of shopping there."

Analysts view Whole Foods' participation as a sign Vancouver is taking mixed-use development to a whole new level. Bob Rennie, a leading condo realtor, says so-called smart stores might be convenient, but don't do much for a project's image. Developers and their ad agencies, in fact, are unlikely to even mention it as a selling point. "It doesn't add to your lifestyle," Rennie says. "It's something you prefer to live near but not with." On the other hand, he adds, "We tell developers to put stores like Whole Foods in."

Across the street from the future Crossroads, the Rise is already under construction. It will house 92 two-/three-unit condos above a four-storey retail complex that will include stores like Winners, Home Sense and a 27,000-sq.-m. Save-on-Foods, a local,

cheaper grocery store. Instead of condos, however, the units will be rentals, averaging \$2,000 a month for about 90 sq. m. Andrew Ribby, president of Grosvenor Canada Limited, a Vancouver-based developer, doesn't think there's much difference between Whole Foods and a Save-on-Foods anchoring such developments. "The competition is all positive," he says. "Retail is more powerful when there's more of it together."

How far might the mixed-use development trend go? The \$250-million Living Shangri-La tower that's slated for completion in 2008 offers some tantalizing hints. At 65 storeys, the building will be the tallest in Vancouver. A five-star hotel will occupy

the first 15 floors. Above that, luxury condos will have views of Coal Harbour and beyond. Hotel guests and condo residents will share a range of high-end amenities: an Urban Farm grocery store; a local gourmet grocer akin to Whole Foods; the city's first public sculpture garden, which will be created by the Vancouver Art Gallery; and restaurants, so name a few. Although the development is still just a hole in the ground, most of the condo units have already sold at an average price of \$1.1 million (the penthouse had an asking price of \$3.3 million). It may be the ultimate in "life is an elevator ride away."

That's great, at least for those who can afford it. The difference, though, between the Shangri-La and a condo tower with a Safeway on the ground floor is really just demographics. Rich and, with capital on the popularity of so-called smart growth. "Combining shopping, employment, entertainment and residential—everyone benefits," says Richard Wier, vice-president of real estate acquisitions in Bents Development, a high-profile Vancouver firm. "It puts fewer cars on the road. It helps sell condos."

Of course, selling condos is one thing; selling groceries is another matter. Says Gurne, "The market is becoming more balanced. More says, 'the difference between the women and men in the real estate game will have to do with external assistance.'"



Urban Farm will have a grocery store in Vancouver's Shangri-La condo.

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KEEPING YOUR COOL

Want to beat the heat this summer? Here's what really works.

IT'S THAT TIME of year again: barbecues, beaches, and buildings should be smog. Summer's here with a vengeance, as last month's heat broke records in Ontario and Quebec. "It takes a lot to impress me," says Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips, "but this June was a real head-shaker." July hasn't been much better, although much of the West has been drenched up from flooding caused by heavy rains. According to Phillips, Environment Canada's outlook for the rest of the summer calls for weather that's "warm, warm, warm, from Vancouver Island to Nova Scotia."

All that heat on place serious demands on energy supplies as people crank up their air conditioners to keep cool. Of course, not everyone has that luxury, and even those who do still have to step outdoors every once in a while. So what can you do to survive the dog days of 2005 and fend off heat exhaustion?

■ **CRINK LOTS.** Water and natural fruit juices are best. Alcoholic, caffeinated and very sugary drinks are bad. They may seem refreshing but they'll dehydrate you in the long run. Also, cool drinks are preferable to cold ones.

■ **DIT—DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH.** If you feel heat exhaustion coming on, it's better to sip than chug, according to John Saunders, manager of disaster services for the Ontario office of the Canadian Red Cross. And a recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* warns that drinking too much water can be as dangerous as drinking too little, especially for athletes. Hyponatremia—when the body's sodium levels become

abnormally low—results from overhydration and, in rare cases, can be fatal. One professional football team's official solution: drinking pickle juice.

■ **FANS ARE A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.** They should only be used with the windows open to blow cooler air in or warmer air heat exhaustion

IF WINDOWS are closed, fans can actually heat the air up and accelerate the onset of heat exhaustion

out. If the windows are closed, fans can actually heat the air up and accelerate the onset of heat exhaustion.

■ **LIGHT COLOURS ARE GOOD.** This rule applies to both clothes and houses. Dark colours absorb the heat, whereas light ones reflect it. But you may have to be hot to be cool. An American magazine reports that

the colours of house exteriors "are trending darker, deeper and richer." And a recent list of the trendiest colours in fashion reveals that Moroccan blue, ruby red and glaucous (that's purple, in case you're wondering) are among the current faves in New York City.

Of course, it's not impossible to combine wearing dark colours with staying cool. Just ask the Red Sox: because the air under their black robes gets so hot, it quickly escapes out the top of the garment and is replaced by fresher air at the bottom, keeping the infielders cool. Unfortunately, today's fashions are a little too form-fitting to allow for that kind of air circulation. The eternal struggle between looking good and feeling good continues.

■ **TREAT YOURSELF TO A GOOD SOAK.** According to Marco Viazghi, coordinating manager of the emergency services unit at Toronto Public Health, not enough people realize how quickly they can lower their body temperature simply by soaking their feet halfway up to the knees and their arms halfway up to the elbows in cool water.

But, as Phillips points out, there's no single "magic rule" for beating the heat. Staying cool, just like predicting the weather, is not an exact science. In the end, the best advice he can offer is for people to use common sense and find what works best for them. ☐

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NO CRYING ALLOWED

At breakup showers, newly single women celebrate, not bemoan, their status

WHEN KALYNN CRUMP fell in love for the first time at 23, she believed—like so many others before her—that it would be forever. “I honestly thought he was ‘the one,’” she recalls. Crump had just moved to Toronto from Winnipeg for a job in Club Monaco’s head office, and when she met the handsome model at work, she asked him out to a taping of a *Kids in the Hall* reunion show. The next, as they say, was supposed to be history. Instead, they dated just three years together—she left him in January, disappointed

that he wasn’t right for her after all.

Many young women would have cried for months on their girlfriends’ shoulders and maybe called and hung up on their ex a few dozen times. But not Crump. She had landed a job as an event planner with a Toronto-based marketing firm, and organizing parties had become second nature to her. So she decided to throw herself a breakup shower. “People kept saying to me, ‘You’ll be okay,’ and I wanted them to know what I had made the right choice and was moving on. I had my party three months later, when I was ready to close that chapter of my life.” Crump had her friends make up special mementos, with names like *Shattered Mirrors*. She even registered at the home decor store Cabela, and at Dog Father and Co.—the hip toy emporium of the couple’s 10-year-old son. “It wasn’t about being bitter at our ex,” says Crump. “It was therapeutic and fun.”

Crump isn’t alone. In the past decade, breakup showers and divorce parties have become so popular they’ve spawned a cottage industry catering to them. Some and online sites sell special party supplies, including pearl pinatas and glasses and replacement cards with “single again” or

“No men? Awww!” The website they took everything over features a gift registry, breakup story column, chat rooms, message boards, advice column and links to therapists.

Jack Green, founder of the 18-store novelty chain, says he saw it coming about 13 years ago, when product catalogues featuring breakups began appearing at trade shows. Since then, the Toronto-based retailer has become

divorce party headquarters, stocking everything from “Grow a Therapist” aprons (says that expand in water) to boyfriend and husband models (also available) to ex-boyfriend punching bags with a clear vinyl pocket to hold a picture of the ex. “People,” says Green, “come in every week looking for Happy Divorce cards.” The trend roadside owes something to their neighbors. According to Statistics Canada, there were 70,634 divorces in 2003, a 136-per-cent jump from 29,773 in 1979. But the gap between them is almost exclusively the women.

of women, who tend to be more open about their feelings—not to mention used to throwing showers. And since females generally earn less than males, single economic necessity may also be behind the breakup gifts. Statistics Canada numbers from 2000 show that men aged 25 to 34 who are separated have average annual incomes of \$33,695 a year, while separated women the same age average \$23,711. The discrepancy cuts across all age groups. Plus, when couples split, says Debra Neigam, a Watermark, Mass.-based certified financial planner and co-author of *Money without Marriage*, “People become afraid and start looking everything that’s theirs. It impacts every part of your being.”

Experts are nevertheless divided over whether breakup bashes do more harm than good. Annette Dekker, a marriage and family therapist in Kitchener, Ont., says she’s not surprised the newly single want recognition that they’ve come through a difficult process and are starting a new phase in their lives. “People need rituals to mark significant events,” she notes. “Without them, the difficulties and hurdles that are addressed during the separation process aren’t given their due.” But David Whately, a Toronto therapist and executive director of Separated Anonymous, which holds seminars aimed at helping the lovelorn gain some insight into their plight, sees therapists as an excuse for people not to work through their pain and anger. And that in turn, can have a negative impact on future relationships. “My concern is they want to push their feelings under and come out to the next one,” says Whately. “But feelings that haven’t been healed get in the way.”

Crump describes her post-relationship party as an empowering experience—so much so that she’s co-writing a book about the phenomenon. And when one of the women in her office broke up with a boyfriend recently, Crump knew exactly what to do. “We’re going to throw a breakup shower for her when she’s ready.”

There's a ready market for parties, such as ex-boyfriend punching bags.



MIRACLE BIRTH

Totally paralyzed by a stroke, Glenda Hickey still had enough love to conceive

THEY WERE A young married couple, in love and excited by the life they were building together. Glenda and Kevin Hickey had good health, good jobs and two cute-as-a-button daughters. They also shared a passion for snowmobiling, downhill skiing, mountain biking and other outdoor sports. "We were a middle class family chugging along," recalls Kevin. "We were always having fun."

Then, on the morning of Jan. 21, 2000, Glenda collapsed in the kitchen of their home in Leduc, 46 km south of Edmonton. She lay motionless for three hours before a neigh-

bor finally discovered her. After being rushed to the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, it took doctors several months to determine that Glenda, then 30, had suffered a massive stroke that left her the victim of a rare neurological disorder known as "locked-in syndrome." She suffered complete paralysis of all voluntary muscles except those controlling her eyes. Glenda couldn't fully communicate, with the ability to see, hear, sense touch and make her wishes known through eye movements. But she could neither move nor speak. The prognosis was grim: most locked-in patients die within a few months of the initial stroke from blood clots, infections or other complications. For those who survive, there's no known cure. It's a life sentence of being trapped in your own body.

After nine months in a physical rehabilitation ward, where she required constant movement in her fingers, doctors released Glenda into the care of her husband. Around the same time, Kevin was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. He was evaluating a battery of radiation treatments that left him fatigued and 30 lbs. below his normal weight. Still, Kevin kept working to a schedule of heavy equipment parts and handling Glenda and their daughters, Kaitlyn, now 8, and Kennedy, 6. All the while, he'd be far from casual support and home care workers motivated. "We're not far neighbors and friends who had fundraisers and collected more than \$150,000 for the Hickeys, the family likely would have gone bankrupt."

In the midst of all this, something unexpected happened: Glenda became pregnant.

While Glenda and Kevin still had congenial relations, neither one thought it possible to conceive given Glenda's condition and Kevin's cancer diagnosis. Family and friends responded warmly to the news. How could the couple possibly care for another dependent? And wasn't even safe for Glenda to carry a baby to term? The expectant parents, both devout Christians, had a very different reaction. Once they determined that the odds to Glenda's health were marginally, they

'IT WAS nice to realize we're still husband and wife,' says Kevin, 'and that we can prove that to people'

saw nothing but upside. "After so much negativity," says Kevin, "we had something positive to focus on."

On April 25, in what medical experts say occurs to be rare for someone with locked-in syndrome, Glenda gave birth by Caesarian section to a healthy 7-lb., 6-ounce baby girl. The name of her third daughter was a foregone conclusion: Hope.

FOR GLENDA, whose mind remains as sharp as before the stroke, conceiving is a painstaking process. Normally, she does so with the help of a speech computer she is able to control with a couple of barely functioning fingers on her right hand. But at that day, the computer isn't working. So Glenda sits in her wheelchair in her living

room, indicating yes or no—eyes looking up means yes, down means no—to letters of the alphabet divided into groups. In this way she spells out her answers.

How did she feel when she learned she was pregnant? "Shocked," comes the first reply, followed by "inspired." What's been the impact on the family since Hope arrived? "A new joy and light," is the answer. Does she consider Hope a miracle? This time, no answer is needed. Glenda's eyes all opened several times—an emphatic yes.

As we converse, a caregiver wanders through the room, giving Hope a bottle and then gently bouncing and burping the baby. Glenda's eyes take it all in. Her face, though largely paralyzed, is transcendently expressive. It's clear when she's happy, sad or distressed. Glenda is also capable of full, body-shaking laughter, usually provoked by one of her husband's playful wisecracks. It may be no more than the rapid smile and outlet of air, but it's infectious all the same.

Sitting across from Glenda on a sofa, Kevin recalls the instant hours after the stroke. That was when he gave the go-ahead for neurology surgery to release the clot in her neck that had blocked the message to Glenda's brain. He remembers the doctors' postoperative warnings that she would likely live only months, and his understanding that all Glenda could do once she left the intensive care unit. "I asked, 'Are you prepared to fight and make a go of it? Because if you are, then every day of your life I'll work hard with you.' And that's how we committed to each other."

The top priority for both of them was getting Glenda home—out of an institution. Not everyone supported the idea. "From the get-go," says Kevin, "some people said, 'Why are you taking your wife home? You've got your hands full with your two kids.' I told them, 'No, I need her help.' I call them from the top, while she's the thinker. So we heard are better than one."

Getting Glenda home, however, required



Kevin holding up baby Hope, Kevin still enjoys the same old laugh

assistance even seven hours a day of home care, while he heads about double that. "If she was in an institution," he says, "she'd be getting 14-hour care. We're wanting a fair share to make this work."

Kevin says his reaction to the pregnancy was much like Glenda's—shock and awe. "I know of couples who are struggling to conceive," he says, "and look at us two weeks, we're having a child." Glenda erupts in laughter at this, but then Kevin turns serious. Baby Hope, he says, has been nothing but a blessing. "It was nice to realize that we're still husband and wife and we can prove that to people," he adds. "Because every relationship that gets this way, the couple always splits up, right? Because it's too hard. And you know what? It is hard."

Both Glenda and Kevin say their faith helps sustain them. All the same, says Kevin, after her stroke and the cancer diagnosis, "I pulled over to the side of the road a couple of times and had discussions with God. 'What are I meant to do. I had a lot of questions and I wanted answers. I said, 'Prove to me, Daddy.' And in a way, He did."

WHEN THE interviews are over, Kevin returns to his office, where pictures of Glenda in more colorful days line the bookshelf. There the stroke hit before their wedding, closing her for the career. In six other, taken just months before her stroke, Glenda has her arms around her two young daughters and beaming away. "That's one of the seasons I'm missing," says Kevin. "She always had a million-dollar smile." Against all odds, she still does. **B**

much adjustments—and financial hardship. The family moved to a larger, more wheelchair-accessible house. Kevin started his own parts company, which he runs from a basement office to be close at hand. Glenda, who is fed through a tube to her stomach,

is unable to dress or bathe herself. Care given once in during the day and Kevin sits over at night and on most of the weekends. The local health authority pays for some of this, though not nearly enough, Kevin contends. He figures government

JOHNNY BE GOOD

With *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Johnny Depp proves again he's the Brando of his generation



HE'S A WEALTHY, world-famous freak, a recluse who takes little to no notice of the press. He has an intense complexion, long, glossy hair cut in a Prince Valiant bob, and a high, quavery voice. He wears an ornate jacket and protective gloves. He's an adult framer in a state of childhood wonder, with a gleam in his eye that looks like it could be shattered by a gust of unwanted criticism. Ring any bells? Yes, that does seem to describe Michael Jackson. But it also describes fabled candy man Willy Wonka.

Wonka as portrayed by Johnny Depp in Tim Burton's astonishing new movie, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Everyone who sees the film seems to notice the parallel: But in interviews Depp has been busy denying that he based the character on Jackson, suggesting he was influenced more by children's TV icons such as Captain Kangaroo and Mr. Rogers—certainly none benign models for a character in a kiddie movie than a man whose image has been indelibly tarnished with charges of child molestation.

Whether or not Depp consciously planned it, the Jacto influence that came up was part of Willy Wonka—not to mention shades of Marilyn Manson and Howard Hughes—as part of what makes the performance so captivating. It's a more subtle, far less obvious than the film-or-as-permeation of Keith Richards that Depp summoned for the character of Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. But it adds a shadowy dimension to this delightful character, based on the classic 1964 children's book by Roald Dahl. As recounted by Depp, Wonka is another hero not unlike him: Just a boy in a bubble. That could be said of a lot of Depp's characters—in films like *Edward Scissorhands*, *Beery O' Jew*, *Chocolat*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Findings Neverland*. He's made a career of playing disoriented youths. Yet each seems made from whole cloth.

Unlike Tom Cruise or Brad Pitt, who ever fully embrace their star personalities into a role, Depp is a goodoliver presence who appears to act without ego. Cruise makes thinking look like a muscular activity, a triumph of pure will. His determination is already visible. Depp builds his performance around questions when he lets his big-guy drop, and a flicker of introspection suggests a world of doubt. Depp is the anti-Cruise, an actor who has become an A-list star almost on spite of himself. He takes on seemingly uncommercial roles (*Dead Man*, *Four and Lasting*, *Laurel and Hardy*) and is naturally drawn to casual commercial material with Oscar-worthy performances (*Phenomena*, *Newsland*). In this critic's opinion, he's the best American actor of his generation, the only one who comes close to Brando. And in the exception that proves the rule, he shows us what's so painfully wrong with the Olympian behavior that often passes for acting in Hollywood.

Yes, despite the lure of another brilliant

DEPP is the anti-Cruise, a man who appears to act without ego yet has managed to become an A-list star



in-roles such as Johnnie from *Phenomena*, Willy Wonka, Jack Sparrow, and J.M. Barrie, Depp plays disoriented youths. Yet each character seems made from whole cloth. The actor builds his performance around moments when he lets his quiet drip, and a flicker of introspection suggests a world of doubt.



turn by Depp, I had to dig myself to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. While Tim Burton's visuals are always dazzling, his ambition often outweighs the story. The director's recent films, from *The Big Fish* to his reimagined *Planet of the Apes*, felt like laboratory experiments gone awry. And after a summer of overwrought remakes and sequels, another style-conscious use of old material seemed as welcome as a smog alert during a heat wave.

What a surprise. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is the summer treat we've been waiting for, a storybook fantasy with the power to move and amaze both children and adults. And Depp delivers the one thing that's been missing from the summer blockbusters: a magical performance. In *Sir Walter Raleigh* (*Revenge of the Sith*, *Barbaric* August,



Mr. O' Jew, *Jack and Jill of the World*, we've seen the actor harness zone and go-Heyed in *Christmas*, *Christian Bale*, *Pitt* and *Cruise*. But they all seem awfully content, so if to make their acting based above (bearing of special effects) their own story is the movie itself. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Depp achieves a quiet, magical focus. True to Wonka's character, it's as if he created the surreal dream factory that surrounds him.

Burton and Depp worked together on three previous features—*Sleepy Hollow*, *Ed Wood*, and *Southland*. They're in the *Scorsese* and *De Niro* of *Twisted* *Golden*. With his delicate, agonized focus, Depp projects a gothic and subtle color that allows him to portray innocence and evil with equanimity. As the anti-Edward Scissorhands or Sleepy Hollow's

bumbling, lecherous Cruise, Depp seems not quite of this world. He's shown an aptitude for playing drug-addled or deranged anti-Hunter S. Thompson in *Four and Lasting*, a cocaine dealer in *Blow*, a writer with an overactive imagination in *Secret Window*. Depp is Hollywood's rebel angel. And he's lived a renege life. Growing up in Florida, he dropped out of high school at 15, and became a gang-bang band leader. After moving to Los Angeles and making his name as an actor, he turned into one of Hollywood's legendary bad boys—labeled the drug overdose death of River Phoenix in 1993, arrested for sending a *MacArthur* hotel room the following year, and scoping with *James Cameron* a London mansion in 1999. Since then, he's settled down with singer-actress Vanessa Paradis in her

native France and fathered two children.

It's ironic that the kid who dropped out of school to do drugs and join the rock 'n' roll circus should transform into A-list respectability by mimicking a heroin-chic Bulling Street in a Disney movie. It was a risky choice, and one that initially alarmed his producers. But with his outrageous Keith Richards routine in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Depp struck box-office gold. He freely admits he copied Richards' mannerisms, and will hope that the *Scorsese* movie *Insider* can be persuaded to play his father in the *Pirates* sequel that he's now shooting.

But it's understandable that the makers of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* aren't keen on the permission to liken to Michael Jackson. To be fair, some of them are equally coincidental. In Dahl's book, published a year before Depp was born, Willy Wonka speaks in a voice that's described as "high and fluty." And whenever strange accent Depp adopted for the character, its odd rhythms and flattened vowels are indeed more reminiscent of Mr. Rogers than Jacko.

But Burton's version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is darker and more intense than Dahl's book, or the 1971 movie version starring Gene Wilder. Burton deepens the tale with Freudian flashbacks to Wonka's damaged childhood—his father was a sadistic dentist (Christopher Lee) who forced him to watch agony and kept his mouth locked in a cage-like maw. And the movie's first glimpse inside the chocolate factory plays like a sick joke on Disney. As miniature puppets, which look like they belong to Disney's *It's a Wonderful World*, move into focus, and as they focus only in massive detail, Wonka smiles with delight.

Even if Michael Jackson was not an inspiration for Depp, he remains the real-life figure who bears a resemblance to Wonka—an eccentric recluse with a reconstructed personality locked in a one-man room of childhood fantasy. Jackson was accused of molesting children, Wonka dikes children, and a happy to see the greedy ones become a nasty end. Both are guilty of wit, inappropriate behavior. But real-life and fantasy have different consequences. Unlike the King of Pop, Depp's candy man is charming and sympathetic to the soul in which Hollywood offers a form of voyeurism that no otherbabe invasion could ever provide.

THE TATTOOED HEART

John Irving's novel reflects his missing father—and his own childhood sex abuse

SO, LET'S SEE: nation critics and church opponents, wrestling and writing an introvert, 40-year-plus with Dickensian tastes and Dickensian characters (including Mrs. Smollop, who fills "the top position"), a despondent homosexual and child sexual abuse, absent father and very angry mother, all of it cloaking us as 400-plus pages. Yes, *Until I Find You* could only be a John Irving novel. But it's far from being a typical Irving work, if such a thing even exists. In his 11th novel, Irving, 63, tackles the themes that have always mattered to him with more nerve, raw emotion and self-consciousness than ever before. The risk factor in *Until I Find You* is huge now that Irving has dedicated—once past to critics and readers, but to himself—that the missing father in his own, and often the sexually abused little boy in his, is John Irving.

The book opens in 1969 with four-year-old Jack Burns, future movie star, being cared through Brides and North Sea ports by his mother, Alice, a Toronto tattoo artist. For a year they search for Jack's father, William, a wandering church singer and "full ink"—a name lower on his way to covering his entire body with images. All his life, Jack will have vivid memories of their strange quest: the comfort offered by the tattooists of north arm Europe, his mother's leanness, the trail of broken hearts left in the wake of the wretched William, the painful bewilderment that his father never nothing to do with him. William, always wanting to keep a part about of Alice the swinging angel, finally escapes by taking off for Australia.

Returning to Toronto, Alice—more than a little sore on men—meets her son at an all-girl school. Jack's horrific time at St. Hilary's school plays a role for Irving's omniscient narrator, a one-time Greek chorus of nostalgic warning and bitter humor: "Oh, what a lucky boy Jack was! Safe among the girls, without a doubt," the narrator reports more than once after yet another episode of bullying or (reluctantly) low-level sexual exploitation. But despite the havoc



the older gets wrecked, it's not the worst to befall Jack. At 16, a small older woman sexually abuses him and destroys his childhood. From then on, Jack feels he has some sort of mark, a sign that predatory older women claim on him.

Until I Find You was originally written in the first person—Irving's confessional memoir, Irving says, is at his writing

which looking out over Georgian Bay. "I thought that person would be a kindred to me, giving me some distance from Jack, but also a kindred to the reader, losing much of Jack's whiny tone." But not even the switch to style could save him from all the pain his story dredged up. Irving's own biological father, John William Burns, left when he was a baby, and it was almost 40 years before the author learned his mother had kept Burns away from his child. "My mother never denigrated my father," Irving says. "But, boy, did I denigrate him. How could a small child be so full of anger and fury? How could he speak of his father all the while he wanted to see me?" When a half-brother made contact in 2004, Irving was saddened to learn that Burns had died five years earlier,

but stunned to discover that his father had been hospitalized late in life with bipolar disorder living had already put Jack Burns's father into a mental institution.

More devastating for Irving, however, were the memories evoked by writing about Jack's sexual abuse. "Jack and the older women brought back repeated memories of the time when I was both abused and abused to older women." And Jack's classic response, particularly the belief that the abuse cured him and the conviction that his vulnerability was written all over him, were also Irving's. "My sexual experience was at 11," recalls Irving, who couldn't bear to put Jack the same age for his traumatic encounter, "with a woman not as old as Jack's seducer, rather a woman in her 20s who, I'm sure to this day, never thought about doing anything wrong. Nor did I feel wrong to me then—only in my 30s as I admitted that I had had orgasms for older women, and I felt it as a wrong to me." And that mark of Cain? "I remember it, I remember it—available in my forehead as a watermark. Once in my 20s I remember, I was in a room, drawn to the most unattractive woman there for my age, knowing I'd never approach her, knowing I'd be helpless if she approached me." Jack's early life left him far more grateful than Irving, though, and it's in that positivity that the author takes his greatest leap.



UNTIL I FIND YOU
John Irving
Knopf Canada, \$24.95

Almost 700 pages into the novel, grown-up Jack's psychiatrist starts badly what readers already know: that her patient is a cipher. Irving starts putting some "strategic criticism" about writers' duties to create a full-bodied character, but he argues vigorously that Jack's unlikability at one of the achievements of his novel. "It's a poor womanizer, a passive character—he never initiates, though he almost never says no—and you don't know him because he never initiates." And that is precisely the state of a man whose childhood has been stolen—no one always in one momentous event but often in a series of small embarrassments, which add up to the same

loss," in the novel's most memorable lines. Jack's non-presence is balanced for much of the book by the anecdotal Emma, the 17-year-old friend who starts out in a mentoring Grade 6 position in his kindergarten world. Eight years older, strong and fiery-wounded, Emma moves quickly once she learns what happened to him. Arriving with Jack at the gym where the boy still meets his abuser, Emma tells "these illegal wrestling moves in under 10 seconds," and destroys the woman. "I've created an Emma character over and over again in my novels," says Irving with a nasal smile, "probably because of how much I wished that as a focus in my life to protect and hold me."

But plot aside, in the case of *Until I Find You*, theme, drive, Irving needs far more than character does. Most of the bare about the novel will focus on Irving's discovery of his other family: that the family romance may well obscure what a fine institution as money the novel is. "It's a book about crossing the memories we want," Irving agrees. "Our memory can betray us, especially if we have an imagination, as we make false memories if those on the memories we wish to be true." After Jack learns that his mother was less than truthful to him about his father—just as Irving's own mother was—Jack returns his childhood trip to Europe and finds that almost everything he remembered was exaggerated, virtually exploded in his head.

So what of his own angry mother, the one who had been so on the fact his father did "not to see her" Irving answers carefully: "This was a really unusual book. My room isn't well enough to read it, but the real need about the autobiographical elements in the media and she will be true. But I can't help that. These are not my secrets any more—and the missing father was never my secret."

There is a lot going on in *Until I Find You*, both artistically and emotionally. The two European tours, with their rearranged figures of puzzles of memory, are a journal of craftsmanship, but the long middle section drags. It's sadistic, to say the least, to expect a therapist with a hole in his heart to carry so heavy a novel. But to enhance a book could easily have escaped Irving's control, and it never really does, a tribute to his artistry and his courage. **B**

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SAVIOUR OF OUR GAME

Who would have thought Gary Bettman would rescue Canadian hockey?



WALK INTO ANY of Canada's six NHL arenas and you'll soon see them: portraits, rather banners and straws commemorating the life of hockey's past. For years in Vancouver, fans on their way to their seat at the old Pacific Coliseum passed beneath a looting, tape-lined photograph of Fred "Cy-Cene" Taylor, the rushing defenceman who in 1945 helped bring the city its only Stanley Cup. At the Saddledome in Calgary, it's a celebration of the redoubtable Lanny McDonald, monster in full splendour, holding his 500 goal peak. In Edmonton, fans and soldiers gather beneath the statue of Wayne Gretzky holding the Stanley Cup.

Now picture, if you will, some likeness of Gary Bettman in any of these places. A smaller effort, perhaps, to reflect both the NHL commissioner's physical stature and the fact that, as far as anyone knows, he's never faced up a pair of skates. But there nonetheless, alongside the game's great heroes, its builders and its legions: Gary Bettman, Saviour of Final Match Canadian Franchises. World how thank!

Certainly not Canadian fans. Since he became NHL commissioner back in 1992, Bettman has been a designated whipping boy for this country's hockey enthusiasts, a Yankee carpetbagger who tried to steal the game, tart it up with laser shows and sell it to the U.S. South. The deporation of franchises from Winnipeg and Quebec City reinforced this perception and, worse, gave the impression Bettman was using his considerable clout to avoid accountability. One Toronto columnist referred to him in print as "Gayle the Wuss." Another labelled

him a "New York lawyer"—apparently deeming it an even worse epithet.

Harsh stuff, but it seemed at the time like fair comment. With voices of the NHL taking its place alongside the sports commissioner juggernauts of Major League Baseball and the NBA, Bettman was busy trying to pry his way into the lucrative U.S. television market, which meant peddling franchises to placeable Florida and Phoenix. Ensuring that fans in St. Bonifacio, Minn., got to keep their beloved Jay didn't factor into this equation, and we know now what the experience wrought: an inferior game subsiding in cities where sports fans don't much care, the loss of critical U.S. TV deals that justified the expansion, a financial reckoning unadvised by the 301 day lockout, and the owners' scorched earth stand in pursuit of a salary cap.

Now, as the smoke from lockout-as-disputes and details of the tentative deal emerge, it's becoming clear that—away from the commissioner has obtained the precise conditions needed to keep franchises like Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Vancouver in place. The \$39 million salary cap, tied to revenues and offloaded by a luxury tax system, means that big-market franchises can no longer use their deep pockets to monopolize veteran talent. It conveniently means that losing teams can no longer lure away star players with ludicrous offers (see: Alvin Toffin, New York Islanders), and this too should weigh in favour of those

Bettman, here with Edmonton Oilers chairman Ed Snider in 1994

that actually care about hockey. Given the choice between playing for a packed house in Ottawa and 9,000 fans in Long Beach, where would you rather be?

The truth is, somewhere along the line Bettman saw a light—one that led him to hockey's heartland. "The Oilers wouldn't still be an Edmonton if it weren't for me," he once said, and in retrospect it's possible to believe him. Indeed, in fact, when action on the road "Y'da salvage Canadian teams by breaking reverse-charging incentive programs to reward small-market franchises that sold lots of season tickets. Last, he pulled strings behind the scenes to help keep Edmonton in the hands of local buyers. Sure, the lockout was about more than saving Canadian franchises, says Pat Laforge, the Oilers' president. But it may well prove a watershed for a team that has watched the likes of Paul Coffey, Curtis Joseph and Doug Weight fly by the coop to higher bidder. "We certainly deserve triple A for his unstinting efforts," says Laforge. "He was a catalyst and he made it happen."

Some fans will differ, of course. During the darkest hours of the lockout last January, an 84-year-old Ottawa man said his newspaper obituary to lament Bettman, declaring both his and Bob Goodenow, leader of the players' union, "blame" for deepening him the pleasure of NHL hockey in his dying year. But Bettman never asked to be liked, and while the owners who exploit him freely give portraits to players to those who docher building, history may treat the scrappy New York lawyer best of all. It can't be up to us to let him than cranky Canadian fans. **E**

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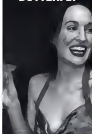
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The Nut King of Montreal

Our visibly different newer immigrants need more help settling in, says Baljit Singh Chadha in his challenge to all Canadians

THE THIRD WAVE of the Canadian Establishment (the original WASH being the first and the post-war influx of European immigrants the second) is distinguished by the obscure logging of its members to be recognized as trustworthy Canadians. The individual who has climbed farthest in this quest is Baljit Singh Chadha, 53, a Montrealer who is a major player in Canada's nut trade, and whose 1986, "Honorville," describes his lefty official standing as well as his inclinations. I call Chadha Canada's Nut King based on his success in establishing and expanding Baloog Ltd., his privately owned international marketer of nuts and other food products, with sales worth up to \$100 million a year.

But Chadha also holds a vital public position that is at the very heart of Canadian democracy. He is one of the five members of the

Ottawa-based Security Intelligence Review Committee, which provides an external and periodically unbiased review of the operations of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. To work in that touchy arena means he is privy to whatever secrets our secret service has uncovered. That requires top security clearance, which in turn demands a drawn-out oath of allegiance. That he is entitled to the title "Honourable," and to the initials M.C. after his name, denoting that he is a member of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, and that he is the same rank as ministers of the Crown.

Established in 1987, Canada's Confederation year, to advise the Crown (that is, the government), this group of six independent publicly nominated body parts is the kind of silent dose that speaks the loudest in Ottawa's corridors of power. All federal cabinet members belong to the Privy Council for life, as do chief justices and other distinguished individuals. In Chadha's case, his membership dates from the trust placed in him by the man who sponsored him in 2003—then prime minister Jean Chrétien. The other current members of the CSIRC review committee are former premiers Gary Filmon of Manitoba and Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan, former Alberta Reform MP Raymond Spivey, and New Brunswick lawyer and businesswoman Adita Landry.

It was a lucky appointment to have Chadha, a pro-

filing Sikh complete with turban and bushy beard (though one who refers to himself as "very liberal" in his thoughts and rhetoric, stirring in judgment of CSIS. Apart from the obvious of recognizing, this could be a potentially tricky situation at a time that some agency proved to be needlessly incompetent when it wiped telephone surveillance tapes that would have been useful evidence at the recent Air India inquest. Chadha won't comment on that issue.

He is not a barrel of laughs. Always serious and unforgivingly polite, he spent a couple of hours with me discussing his feelings about Canada. Unlike many other members of this third wave group of newcomers, he doesn't let his passionate admiration of his new homeland stop him from criticizing it. During our conversation, he suggested some interesting ways of improving our national potential. His thoughts are worth considering because they reflect not merely his concerns but the profound worries of most of the newcomers, who generally still feel too insecure or too shy to express them.

Chadha is different. He was self-made in India and feels equally secure here. Born and brought up in an upper-class home in Bombay, he was educated in English at Catholic schools, even earned a B.Sc. at Bombay University. Chadha's father, Jagjit, wanted him to join the family food business





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but, seeking to broaden his horizons, the youngster sent out letters to a dozen business administration schools. He got lucky when he was accepted in the University of Western Ontario's M.B.A. course, one of the best in the world. He eventually enrolled at Concordia University in Montreal, working part-time with his cousin, who was a chartered accountant.

Reining desk space from his cousin, Chhadha went into business for himself in 1976. While still a student, he started importing and exporting goods from and to India, specializing in rice and dried fruit. Almonds, pineapples and walnuts from California, cut out from India and Brazil, peaches from the U.S., India and Argentina.

At the end of this dry recital, I ask him how Canada fit into his story, and why he decided to stay here. "My personal philosophy," he replies, "is that the most important decisions in your life, you really don't make yourself. They are presented to you, and you just follow their path. If you happened to be here, and this is going back to when there were no taxes, and I had to depend on relatives, religious and even make calls—overseas calls you had to book ahead. It just worked, and intuitively, I think it was one of the best decisions in my life to stay in Canada, and to stay in Montreal. India was then a controlled economy, and in the mid-1970s, when they started to open up the economy, there were certain opportunities that presented themselves. It could start doing business out of California to India, and I was the first to do so."

That came the essential turning point in his career, his pivot that opportunities appear out of nowhere and that you must not only believe in this magical notion, but also depend on it and, above all, take advantage of it. This is Chhadha's story of that defining event in his career.

Chhadha—with Clinton in 1996 and with then-B.C. premier Ujjal Dosanjh in 2000—came to Canada on his own as a student and built a successful import-export business.

total confidence in me. And then what happened, I started a business in California and he got transferred. So I started dealing with the bank manager, and I said 'Look, I'm starting this business, I'm going to start getting orders and letters of credit, in cotton, for thousands of dollars,' and he said, 'No problem, when they come in, we'll look after you and everything.' Finally, when all these orders and letters of credit came in, he tells me they're not worth the paper they're written on. 'You have orders on hand to ship out of California, but what's a 25-year-old person doing with such large amounts of orders and businesses?'

"So that's what happened. And at the same time, the supplier who was supposed to put the goods on the boat calls up and says, 'I need the money in advance, otherwise these goods are not going.' I was stuck between a rock and a hard place. It was make it or break it, and you had no choice. I think the credit orders were for a shipment of \$350,000, and the subsequent orders were a couple of hundred thousand dollars. So I fly to California in those days, you had to go through Toronto. I was making a newspaper on the plane while going there, and one ad from the Standard Chartered Bank, a British bank that was opening a Toronto office. And I said to myself, 'Gee,

that rings a bell. It's the bank I think my family used to be with in India.' I called the bank, and it was a small rep office, with only three people, and I talked to the manager. That's when, as I say, the most important decisions you don't make, they're presented to you.

"I said I'm looking for financing for shipments, in cotton, and it's a problem, things like that. He kept listening to me, and at the end, he says, 'Are you by any chance related to...?'—the name he mentioned was that of my grandfather. I said, 'That's my grand father!' He said, 'Go ahead, do your business. Tell us where you want me to send the money.' It was US\$50,000. Amazing. I had not even met the gentleman. 'When you come back, we will do the paper work,' he told me, and I was on the way to California."

CHADHA STAYED with that bank until it closed its office 15 years later. He, though, chose to stay in Canada. "I could have been anywhere. I could have been in the Bahamas, and not paid any taxes as anything," he tells me. "But I stayed in Canada, specifically in Montreal, and it was the best decision of my life." After a few years, he says, he grew to love the city. (He and his wife, Rashi, a governor of McGill University, now live in Westmount. They have a son, Harshit, and daughter, Carven, both in their teens.)

At the same time, Chhadha is rightly concerned about how much still has to be done in Canada to achieve fair representation of different communities in different sectors, whether it's public service, government, politics or corporate. He is exercised about the glass ceiling or glass door that separates them. Chhadha looks back to the wave of Jews who arrived in Montreal in the 1840s, fleeing famine. "They came from the great hunger, and settled in Gefirmont, where they faced discrimination. Then a second

Chhadha—with his wife, Rashi, and Hillary Rodham Clinton at a reception ceremony in New York City in 2000—says Canadian society needs considerably more open thinking.

wave came from Europe, and they included a number of Jewish immigrants, who also faced a lot of discrimination. Then the third wave were the people who came at during the 1970s and 1980s, predominantly from Asia, and they are going through the same thing. And it will happen to the fourth wave. We're living in the 21st century, we say we are educated—why does it have to happen with every wave? Why can't society, why can't governments, be prepared?"

Legislation won't change attitudes, Chhadha adds, but our society needs more open thinking. "For example," he adds, "if you look at the federal public service, only seven to eight per cent of the people are visible minorities. In Toronto, more than 40 per cent of the population to day are non-Canadians. Yet if you look at the government, right from city council, the police and everywhere, there has yet to be some sort of openness to it. A lot of people say, 'We want this,' but nobody applies. People don't apply because they feel it is a waste of time. This is one of the things that really has to change in order to make Canada a good place."

Chhadha is equally concerned that immigrants in the third wave, not being of European or Judeo-Christian stock, tend to live in what people are calling ghettos. "There are people who consider that the Molson-Bourgeois area [on Toronto's outskirts] is an Indian-Christian ghetto," he corrects. "If you go north of Toronto, there are Italian 'neighbourhoods,' some thing with the Greek 'neighbourhoods' in Glace St-Luc in Montreal, it's Jewish. Probably because there's expensive housing, or because it's people of a

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BACKTALK



TV | Invasion makes her wildest Hardy Boys dreams come true

Actress Karl Melchior once had the role for a Hardy Boy. "I loved *Shawn Cassidy*," says the Spelling, Seak-Born star of *Invasion*, a new supernatural drama—created and directed by Cassidy—that will premiere on CTV this fall. "Right after my audition, Shawn told me that I looked like so soon as I left the room, I pulled a Tom Cruise on Oprah. In that moment, everything in my life made sense. You have to understand, as a teenager I had a poster of his on my wall and it had my topless states all over it."

The new girl will certainly increase her exposure, which was a bit of an issue with her last project. TV movie *Philly City: SARS in Toronto* (her face was obscured in almost all of the promotional material) "battling on the front of TV guide with a surgical mask covering her face was a bit frustrating and made me the brand of a lot of my friends' jokes," says Melchior, 25, who will live in Santa Monica, Calif., while shooting the series. "I'd made it, but nobody knew who I was. Just like a true Canadian television star!" JONAH WEIN

Melchior will star in a new drama, directed by her childhood crush—Cassidy

Film | Island of guilty pleasure

In the summer dog days of acquits and remakes, there's an undeniable pleasure in watching an "original" action blockbuster starring two very notable actors, Dave McGeorge and Scarlett Johansson—even if it's a cluster bomb packed with every sci-fi cliché known to man. In the island, McGeorge and Johansson play two "products" in an Orwellian concentration camp of lab-created humans programmed to believe they're the sole survivors of an ecological disaster. In fact, they're being cultivated to furnish body parts for rich patrons in an outside world that's still thriving. Once our innocent couple discovers the hoax and makes their escape,



the movie turns into a mature chest throb.

Even if watching *Island* is like being blown through the world's largest ventilator or shark, it's kinda fun. And the high-action action director Michael Bay (*Armageddon*, *Pearl Harbor*) mixes his school pedigree. The campaign is loaded with ring ideas about race, genetics and the Holocaust. And Shawn (played with a touch of greatness) wets. Still, the movie plays like one big, gleeful Super Bowl ad for the future, with lots of campy-onous product placements. It's odd—the *Matrix* of the mid-2000s couldn't look a lot like this in 2005. ROSAN L. JOHNSON

One to watch | Introducing Powder pop

LURE! Daniel Powder

AGE: 34

OCCUPATION: Pop singer

HOMETOWN: Vernon, B.C.

WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIM: The single, *Bad Day* (off his self-*itled debut (released July 26)), has**already hit No. 1 in France, Belgium,**Switzerland and the Netherlands.**HE SOUNDS LIKE: Elton John. "I don't**write same old same records in the**2000s but have no desire to be him."**BIG BREAK: *Bad Day* was used in a**Coke ad in France last Christmas—**and it helped. "It gave my label a**reason to get behind the album and**release it."**MUSICAL INFLUENCES: Prince, Mar-**vin Gae and Pink Floyd.**ON PLAYING THE VIBRAX: A 100 "he**didn't help me with guitar, but it**helped me save my car."**WHY HE MOVED TO SANTA MONICA,**Calif.: "Actually, I'm not much of a**water guy, but I was spending a lot**of time there for work. I'd been think-**ing about moving, but I didn't know**what to do with all my furniture.**Then my apartment in Vancouver**sought fire and all I had left was my**laptop and the clothes on my back.**Turns out, the fire was week before**shooting the *Bad Day* video. The**director asked if I was a method**actor."*

It's a little bit of a mess—except for Elton John

ing about moving, but I didn't know what to do with all my furniture. Then my apartment in Vancouver sought fire and all I had left was my laptop and the clothes on my back. Turns out, the fire was week before shooting the *Bad Day* video. The director asked if I was a method actor."

MACLEAN'S 100 | TOP 10

Canadian art that's worth risking your life for

if the National Gallery of Canada ever goes up in flames (yeah, the thought of it, right?), Pierre Théberge, knows the first 10 pieces he'd try to save.

1. *Smile on the Japanese*, Cape Trinity, Lucian R. O'Brien (1880)
2. *Pierre et Jean Paul Ricœur* (1954)
3. *The Red Maple*, A. T. Jackson (1914)
4. *Untitled (Pearl of a Baby)*, Ron Mueck (2003)

5. *The Young Student*, Gênes Leclerc (1954)

6. *At the Top and Sky*, Emily Carr (c. 1938-1939)

7. *Forty-Four Minutes*, Janet Cardiff (1993)

8. *Arpej*, Gustav Klimt (1901)

9. *Yes, Vincent van Gogh* (2000)

10. *Shades of Grey*, Brian Jungen (1998)



Top 10 runs during Maclean's centenary.

Pierre Théberge's *Smile on the Japanese*

Film | Me and you and Miranda July

So few women get to direct feature films that when one breaks through it seems miraculous. Last year, Sofia Coppola became the first American female director to get an Oscar nomination for *Lost in Translation*, and recently Nora Fingsland truly arrived by making a bio-dad Hollywood dud (*Brüchschick*). Next up is Miranda July, a 32-year-old performance artist

from Portland, Ore., with life and love and *Jeepers Me Knows*. July became the toast of Sundance and Cannes, where she shared the Critics' d'Or for best first feature. *Me and you and Miranda July*, which she wrote, directed, and starred in the *Screen-*



and-camera, quizzically about a perform-ance artist who leads a shelter to a short alien on *Urbanscape*. The movie includes some delightfully staged scenes of childlike exploring sex. As part of a 24-year-old girl's romantic life to conserve their infatuated skills, and the boy's last brother (Dawson Redford) contributes laconic lines about "pop" to an explicit internet chat. As young female director, says July, "you should start a lot more. It's a myth that you need unshakable confidence. I worked through things by listening to Brendon, which is." The director also cast Canadian actor Travis Wright in a role she needs her, as a smiling dancer. Wright received it at first, playing the character too slowly in the green glaze, the played in Dan McKellar's *Long August*—she says she accepted after July made the role "ridiculously less depressing." July, however, is rejecting Hollywood offers while she works on a book of short stories. "I told my agent not to call back to me, because I was writing," she says. "Then I discovered that they thought I was talking about a script." FRANK B. JONES



Miss Universe finishes John Intini's sentences

It's something 90's heist, *Heist* (Globe) is looking for pictures on the balcony of a Toronto hotel's heli. But unlike the photo crew and her team of personal assistants, there isn't a lot of social media. It's not a wonder the Toronto scene is less vibrant—she was the first in the world to be crowned Miss Universe two months ago and immediately began travelling the world, raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. 25, *Heist* (Macleans) Associate Editor John Intini's sentences.

THE Toughest part about living in New York City with two other really queens... is keeping food in the fridge that you like. It's amazing how fast the first disappearers the fastest risk that I've ever

TAKEN... was on the bungee jump into at Canada's Wonderland. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD... is Catherine Zeta-Jones. I HURT MYSELF... really badly in Thailand. We were all huddling around for a special nighttime meal and the plastic ladder melted, leaving a big blister on my head. I HAVE A HABIT OF... sleeping a lot. I take naps as often as I can. I'M OBSESSED WITH... watching *The Simpsons*. There is a quote from that show for every situation in life. I HATE SHOOTING FOR underwear, it's so tough to pick the right size.

FOR MORE "JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MACLEANS.CA/REDE

BATIE HOLMES AND John Intini's sentences, his paid off his 785-megawatt week, 113,000 more viewers based in for the channel's *Queen's* *Queen's* review.

Books | Survival among the ruins

A war story unlike any other, *A Woman in Berlin* records two women in the sheltered Soviet army in 1945. The author, then a 34-year-old woman, has survived a long war even after her death in 2001. Her story, written with a perfect touch by candlelight, offers a rare female perspective on the horrors of the occupation. The mass rape (episodes 1945-1946) is not the only book in the series for food and water. First published in 1995, the book met with hostility—and was even condemned the author's "obscurely beautiful" story. The war was women were expected to be silent on the subject of rape. 3 Anonymous also said: "I was shocked with her belief that her people had driven this disaster upon themselves. With the passage of time her perspective—and the extraordinary way she kept her dignity and moral sense alive in a hellish—has made her story a rare classic."



A WOMAN IN BERLIN Anonymous, 341 pages, \$25.95

Best Sellers

Fiction	novels and more
1. <i>THE MISTRESS</i> , Elizabeth Strout (9)	1
2. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	2
3. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	3
4. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	4
5. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	5
6. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	6
7. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	7
8. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	8
9. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	9
10. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	10

Non-fiction

1. <i>THE MISTRESS</i> , Elizabeth Strout (9)	1
2. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	2
3. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	3
4. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	4
5. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	5
6. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	6
7. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	7
8. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	8
9. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	9
10. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> , Lisa Fiedler (10)	10

11. *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN*, Lisa Fiedler (10)



TALES FROM BOOM TOWN

Oil, big money, and the political manoeuvring to succeed King Ralph

AT A MEXICAN RESTAURANT on Fourth Street in Calgary, I ordered a medium rice steak that arrived so late I thought it was going to get up and show me the neighbourhood. Dave Beaumont, the apple-cheeked mayor of Canada's biggest boom town, poured from a jug of mojitos and talked about Calgary's amazing prosperity.

"After the Stampede we're going to come out with migration numbers that show our planning department was only off by 100 per cent. We projected 12,000 more people would move to Calgary than left over the past year. It's closer to 24,000."

Calgary had the highest population growth of any major Canadian city in 2004. (Fort McMurray, the gateway to northern Alberta's famously lucrative oil sands, grew faster, but it's not a major city. Yet.) Fifty-five new cars go onto Calgary's roads every day. The total value of building permits in Calgary last year was greater than in Alberta's next 10 biggest cities put together. Unemployment is so low that the city's main economic obstacle is a shortage of labour, skilled or unskilled.

Why? Gosh, Bruce Graham is the president of Calgary Economic Development but he's actually one of those new residents. When he moved here 14 months ago, he told me, he was at \$9,500 a month. Now it's at \$14.

In fact, as I joked around Calgary during the first weekend of the Calgary Stampede, that was pretty much the standard answer whenever I asked what his new

"What's new?" I asked.

"Thirty-dollar oil," people answered. All else flows from that, so to speak. Calgarians love mentioning an old bumper sticker from the late years: "Lord, grant me one more boom and I promise not to piss it away this time."

The new boom is here. There are admirable efforts to diversify the economy and entrench the Alberta Advantage: Calgary has become a transport, logistics and distribution hub for Western Canada and the northwestern United States. Canadian Tire and Wal-Mart have opened massive,



highly automated distribution centres.

I asked Beaumont whether I could visit the Wal-Mart hub. "You'll see it when you fly out of town," he said. "It's a one-story building that's a million square feet. It's frigging ginormous."

The Klein government stepped farther out into the last budget and invested instead in higher education and research. Just Denning, when running to replace Ralph Klein as Tory king-for-all, told me he wants to make education and resource refinement the cornerstones of his administration. In this sense, nothing gets out of Alberta without being processed or refined first—oil, food crops, beef or bison. "We will be the leading value-added jurisdiction in Canada, if not North America," Denning said.

"Which brings me to how I came to risk-taking: besides the wisdom of Alberta's economy, the topic for many Calgaryans these days is the perilous state of its politics, both

provincial and federal. This city doesn't like to wait. It is not pleased to let itself waiting for new blood at both levels.

The loss after between Paul Martin and Calgary—remember that!—has faded. For the first time in four years, he didn't show up at the Stampede. But that's old news. The same news as the Stephen Harper as a disappointment too. Overchance, some senior federal Tories mused that leader's will against to fight for very little more. Garment General. "The crowd thought that the party's looking post-Stephen now," one said. "There's no appetite for trying to remove him before an election, but who knows we can win?"

At the provincial level, just about every adult male Alberta with a change of pants seems to be running to replace Ralph Klein. But nobody knows when Klein will step down. Someth, maybe, but that could mean a year or more or in two years. Meanwhile, all these candidates are bumping up shoe leather in the endless preliminary rounds.

Most people mentioned Denning, the self-proclaimed former finance minister who belated the province's books for Klein, as his likely opponent. Many named Tad Morton, who is working hard to corner the market on Western education, as a possible spook. I have had the pleasure of chatting with Morton and wouldn't care how much more pleasure I could stand, so I called Denning.

He wants to replace ditch with direction ("Alberta on purpose," he said repeatedly) and thinks Klein's been too timid on private health-care. What if Denning tries to strip him from gaining farther? "We'll just do a one and piece of the Quebec model and do it here," he said mildly. Even the like gap candidate for the leadership isn't interested in being too nice. Alberta's politicians are growing a lot of such recovery. If you thought the province was hard to ignore in the past, just watch it now.

To comment: backpage@maclean.ca
Read Paul Wells's writing: "Inland Wells," at www.macleans.ca/paulwells



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